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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Jacob and Esau

*Licensed in 1557-8*

*Date of earliest known Edition, 1568*

*Reproduced in Facsimile, 1908*







# The Tudor Facsimile Texts

*Under the Supervision and Editorship of*

JOHN S. FARMER

## Jacob and Esau

1568



*Issued for Subscribers by*

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LONDON, W.C.: AND EDINBURGH

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GENERAL

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## Jacob and Esau

*The original of this facsimile is in the British Museum (Press-mark, C. 34, b. 25).*

*"Jacob and Esau" was licensed in 1557-8, and was probably printed soon afterwards, so that the 1568 edition is not likely to be the first one, but no other impression is extant. Other copies of this play are at Chatsworth and Bridgewater House.*

*"Jacob and Esau" was first reprinted in modern times by Hazlitt in his edition of "Dodsley's Old Plays," but never before now in facsimile.*

*Mr. J. A. Herbert, of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, after comparing this reproduction with the original copy, reports it to be "a first-rate facsimile, practically faultless." Special points of criticism are:—*

*(1) B.j. verso, foot of page, the "s" of "Actus" is more blurred than in original.*

*(2) C.iii. verso, line 28, last word, rather clearer in original, "potte."*

*(3) F.j., recto, line 11, the stroke under "apparailed" is not in original.*

JOHN S. FARMER.















A newve mery and wittie  
Comedie or Enterlude, newly  
imprinted, treating vpon the Historie of  
Iacob and Esau, taken out of the xxvij.  
Chap. of the first booke of Moses  
entituled Genesis.

*The partes and names of the Players  
who are to be considered to be Hebrewes  
and so should be apparailled with attire.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The Prologe, a Poete.                            | 7 Hanan, a neighbour<br>to Isaac also.         |
| 2 Isaac, an olde man, fa-<br>ther to Iacob & Esau. | 8 Kagan, seruant vnto<br>to Esau.              |
| 3 Rebecca an olde womā,<br>wife to Isaac.          | 9 Mido, a little Boy,<br>leading Isaac.        |
| 4 Esau, a yong man and a<br>hunter.                | 10 Debozra, the nurse<br>of Isaacs Lente.      |
| 5 Iacob, a yong mā of good<br>ly conuersation.     | 11 Abza, a little wench,<br>seruāt to Rebecca. |
| 6 Zethar a neighbour.                              |  |

2 ~~By~~

Imprinted at London by Henrie

Bynneman, dwelling in Knight rider streete,  
at the signe of the Permayde.

Anno Domini 1568.

c. 7159

8





## *The Prologue of the play.*

**I**n the Booke of Genesis it is exprest,  
That whē God to Abrahā made sure promis  
That in his sēde al nations shold be blessed:  
To send him a son by Sara he did not misse,  
Then to Isaac (as there recorded it is)  
By Rebecca his wife, who had lōg time tē ba  
Whē pleased him, at one birth he sent sons twaine. (rain

But befoze Jacob and Esau yet bozne were,  
D: had eyther done good, o: yll perpetrate:  
As the prophete Malachie and Paule witnesse beare,  
Jacob was chosen, and Esau reprobate:  
Jacob I loue (sayde God) and Esau I hate.  
For it is not (sayth Paule) in mans renning o: will,  
But in Gods mercy who choseth whome he will.

But now for our comming we shal exhibite here  
Of Jacob and Esau howe the stozp was,  
Wherby Gods adoption may plainly appeare:  
And also, that what euer Gods ordinance was,  
Nothing might defeate, but that it muste come to passe.  
That if this stozp may your eyes o: eares delite,  
We pray you of patience, while we it recite.











*The Historie of Iacob**and Esau.**Actus primi, Scæna prima.*

Ragau the seruant.      Esau a yong man his maister.

**N**ow lette me se what tyme it is by the starre light :  
 Gods for his grace man, why it is not yet midnight,  
 We might haue slept these four houres yet I dare well  
 But this is our god Esau his common play :  
 What the dyuell apleth him : now truly I thinke plaine,  
 He hath either some wormes or bottes in his braine.  
 He scarcely slepeth .xij. god houres in two wakes.  
 I wote wel his watching maketh me haue leane cheekes.  
 For there is none other life with hym day by day,  
 But by Ragau, by drousy hogges head I say :  
 Why when : Up, will it not be : Up. I come anon.  
 Up, or I shall reyle you in sayth ye drousy hozelson.  
 Why, when : shall I sette you : I come sly by and by.  
 Up with a wilde wenpon, how long wilt thou lie :  
 Up I say, by at once. Up by, let vs goe hence,  
 It is tyme we were in the forrest an houre sence.  
 Powe the deuill stoppe that same pallyng throte (thynke I)  
 Somtwhiles. For from he call, farewell all winke of eye.  
 Begin he once to call, I sleepe no more that stounde,  
 Though half an houres slepe wer worth .x. thousand possid.  
 Anon when I come in, and bydde him god morow :  
 Ah sly, by at last, the deuill gyue thee sorow.  
 Powe the diuell breake thy necke (thinke I by and by)  
 That hast no witte to scape, nor in thy bedde to lye.  
 Then come on at once, take my quier and my bowe,  
 Sette Louell my hounde, and my hozne to blowe.  
 Then forth goe we sayng an houre or two ere day,  
 Before we may well se either our handes or way,

A.ij.

And

Ragau entreteth  
 with his horn  
 at his back, and  
 his huntynge  
 staffe in hys  
 hande, and lea-  
 deth .iij. grey-  
 hounds or one  
 as may be got  
 ten.  
 Here he coun-  
 tertaiteth howe  
 his maister cal-  
 leth hym vp in  
 the mornings,  
 and of his an-  
 sweres.

51102 *En* The Historie of

And there raunge we the wilde forest, no crumme of bread  
 From morning to starck night coming within our head,  
 Sometime Esau selfe will saynt for drinke and meate :  
 So that he would be glad of a dead horse to eate  
 Yet of freshe the next morow forth he will againe,  
 And sometime not come home in a whole night or twaine :  
 For no delite he hath, no appetite nor minde  
 But to the wilde Forest, to hunt the Harte or Vinde,  
 The Roebucke, the wilde boze, the fallow Ware, or Hare :  
 But howe worse Ragau shall dine, he hath no care,  
 Boze I, must eate Acornes or Bearies from the Tree.  
 But if I be founde slacke in the sute following,  
 Or if I do fayle in blowing or hallowing,  
 Or if I lacke my Staffe, or my Horne by my syde :  
 He will be quicke inough to fume chase, and chide.  
 Am I not well at ease suche a mayster to serue,  
 As must haue such seruitce, and yet will let me serue ?  
 But in faith his fashions displease moe than me,  
 And will haue but a madde ende one day we shall see.  
 He passeth nothing on Rebecca his mother,  
 And much lesse passeth he on Jacob hys brother.  
 But peace, mumme, no moze : I see maister Esau.  
 Howe now, are we all ready seruauit Ragau ?  
 Art thou by for all day man ? art thou ready now ?  
 I haue ben here this halfe houre sye waiting for you.  
 And is all thing ready as I bad, to my mynde ?  
 We haue no cause, that I know, any fault to fynde :  
 Except that we disease our tent and neighbours all  
 With rising ouer early eche day when ye call.  
 Ah thou drouisy drasselacke, wouldest thou ryse at none ?  
 Nay I trow the firth booke with thee were ouersone.  
 Nay I speake of your neighbours being men honest,  
 That labour all the day, and would faine be at rest :  
 Whom with blowing your Horne ye disease al aboutes.  
 What care I for waking a fozte of clubbishe loutes ?

And

Here Esau ap-  
 pereth in sight,  
 and bloweth  
 his Horne, ere  
 he enter.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.









## *Jacob and Esau.*

And I speake of Rebecca your mother, our dame.  
Luttre I passe not whether she doe me prayse or blame.  
And I speake of your good father, olde Isaac.  
Peace folishe knaue : As for my father Isaac,  
In case he be a sleepe, I doe him not diseale,  
And if he be waking, I knowe I do him please,  
For he loueth me well from myne natiuitie,  
And neuer so as now, for myne actiuitie.  
Therefore haue at it, once more will I blow my Horne  
To giue my neighbour loutes an haile peale in a morne.  
Now my maister Lightfoote, how say you to this geare,  
Will you do your duetie to redde or fallow Deare ?  
And Swan mine owne good curre, I do think in my minde,  
The game shal runne apace, if thou come farre behinde :  
And ha Takepart, come Takepart, here, how say you child  
Will not thou do thy part ? yes, else I am beguilde.  
But I shew your chackes, they haue had too much meat.  
I blame not dogges to take it, if they may it geat :  
But as for my parte, they coulde haue pardie,  
A small releuait of that that ye giue me.  
They may runne light inough for ought of me they got,  
I had not a good meales meate this weeke that I wot.  
If we haue lucke thys day to kill Hare, Teg, or Doe,  
Thou shalt eate thy belly full, tyll thou cryest hoe.  
I thanke you when I haue it, mayster Esau.  
Well, come on, let vs goe nowe seruant Ragau.  
Is there any thing more, that I shoulde say or do ?  
For perhaps we come not againe this day or two.  
I know nothing maister, to God I make a bolw,  
Except you woulde take your brother Jacob with you :  
I neuer yet sawe hym with you an hunting goe,  
Shall we proue hym once whether he will goe or no ?  
No, no, that were in vaine : Alas gods simple mome.  
Nay, he must tarrie and sucke mothers dugges at home :  
Jacob must keepe home I trow, vnder mothers wing,

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Here Esau bloweth his horn  
agayne.

Here he speaketh  
to his  
Dogges.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

## The Historie of

To be from the Tentes he loneth not of all thing.  
 Jacob loneth no huntynge in the wyldbe forest :  
 And would feare if he shoulde there see any wyldbe beast.  
 Hea to see the game runne, Jacob would be in feare.

Ragau. In god soth I wene he would think eche Hare a Beare.

Esau. What brother myne, what a worde call ye that ?

Ragau. Sp? I am scarce waked : I spake ere I wyll what.

Esau. Come on your ways my childe, take the law of the game.

I will wake you I trove, and set your tongue in frame.

Ragau. Oh what haue you done maister Esau, Gods apcs.

Esau. Why can ye not yet refraine from lettynge such scapes ?

Come on, ye must haue t hre iertes for the nonce.

One.

Ragau. Oh, for Gods loue sp? haue done, dispatche at once.

Esau. Nay there is no remedy but byde it, there is twaine.

Ragau. O ye rent my cheuerell, let me be past my paine.

Esau. Take hede of Huting termes fro benisforth, there is thre;

Ragau. Althoup. Solue a mischief on all mopyng soles for me.

Jacob shall kepe the Tentes tenne yeare for Ragau,

Ere I moue agayne that he hunt wyth Esau.

Esau. Come on, now let vs goe. God sende vs game and lucke,

And if my hande serue me well,

Ragau. We wyll kill a Duche.

Excant ambo.

## Actus primi, Scæna secunda

Hanan. Zethar. two of Isaacs neighbors.

Hanan. A H sp?, I see I am an early man thys moorne,  
 I am once moze begylde with Esau his hozne.

But there is no suche stirrer as Esau is :

He is by day by day befoze the Crowe vis :

Then maketh he with his Hozne such totyng and blowng

And with his wyde throate such thoutng and hallowng,

That no neighbour shall in his Tent take any rest,

From









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## *Jacob and Esau.*

From Esau addresseth hym to the Forrest.  
So that he maketh vs whether we will or no,  
Better husbantes than we woulde be, abroade to go,  
Eche of vs about our businesse and our warke.  
But whome doe I see yonder commyng in the darke?  
It is my neyghbo: Zethar, I perceyue hym nowe.

What neighbour Hanan, well met, good morow to you. Zethar.  
I see well nowe I am not beguiled alone:  
But what wote to lye still? for rest we can take none.  
That I meruaile much of olde father Isaac,  
Weyng so godly a man, why he is so slacke  
To byng hys sonne Esau to a better stay.

What shoulde he do in the matter I you pray? Hanan.  
Oh it is no small charge to fathers afore God, Zethar.  
So to traine their children in youth vnder the rod,  
That when they come to age they may vertue ensue,  
Wicked pranks abhorre, and all leudnesse eschue.  
And me thinketh Isaac, being a man (as he is)  
A chosen man of God, shoulde not be slacke in this.

Alack good man, what shoulde he do more than he hath don? Hanan.  
I dare say no father hath better taught his sonne,  
Nor no two haue given better example of life:  
Unto their children, than bothe he and his wife:  
As by their yonger sonne Jacob it doth appeare:  
He lyueth no loose life, he doth God loue and feare.  
He keepeth here in the Tentes lyke a quiete man:  
He geueth not hymselfe to wildnesse any whan.  
But Esau enermore from his yong childehoo  
Hath ben lyke to proue yll, and neuer to be good.  
Yong it pricketh (folkes do say) that wyll be a thorne,  
Esau hath ben nought ever since he was borne.  
And wherof commeth this, of Education?  
Nay it is of his owne yll inclination.  
They were brought by bothe vnder one tuition,  
But they be not bothe of one disposition.

Esau

## The Historie of

**Zethar.** Esau is gyuen to looe and leude lynyng.  
**Hanan.** In sayth I warrant him haue but shende thynyng.  
**Zethar.** Neither see I any hope that he will amende.  
 Then let hym even looke to come to an yll ende.  
 For youth that will folow none but theyr owne bydle,  
 That leadeth a dissolute lyfe and an ydle,  
 Poppeth that refuseth holysome documentes,  
 Do to take example of theyr godly parentes,  
 Youth that is retchelesse, and taketh no regarde,  
 What become of them selfe, nor which ende goe forwarde,  
 It is great meruaile and a spectall grace,  
 If euer they come to goodnesse all theyr life space.  
 But why doe we consume this whole moornyng in talke,  
 Of one that hath no recke ne care what way he walke,  
 We had bene as good to haue kept our bedde still.  
**Hanan.** Oh it is our parte to lamente them that doe yll.  
 Lyke as very nature, a godly heart dothe moue  
 Others god proceedings to tender and to loue:  
 So suche as in no wise to goodnesse will be brought:  
 What god ma but wil mourn, since god vs al hath brought  
 But ye haue some busynesse, and so haue I.  
**Zethar.** And we haue ben long, farewell neighbour heartily.

## Actus primi, scæna tertia.

Rebecca the Mother:

Iacob the Sonne.

**Rebecca.** Come forth sonne Iacob, why tarriest thou behinde?  
**Iacob.** Forsoth mother, I thought ye had sayd al your minde.  
**Rebecca.** Nay, come I haue yet a worde or two moze to say.  
**Iacob.** What sooner pleaseth you, speake to me ye may.  
**Rebecca.** Seyng thy brother Esau is suche an one,  
 Why rebukest thou hym not when ye are alone?  
 Why doest thou not gyue him some good sad wyse counsaile?  
**Iacob.** He lacketh not that mother, if it woulde auale.

But









## Jacob and Esau

But when I doe him any thing of his fault tell,  
He calleth me foolish the proude boy with him to mell.  
He will sometime demaunde by what authoritie,  
I presume to teache them which mine elders be.  
He will sometime aske if I learne of my mother,  
To take on me teaching of mine elder brother.  
Sometime when I tell hym of his leude behauiour,  
He will sende me a mocke or twaine for my labour:  
And sometime for anger he will out with his purse  
And call me as please hym, and sweare he will doe worse.

Oh Lorde, that to beare such a sonne it was my chaunce. Rebecca.

Yother, we must be content wpyth Gods ordinaunce. Jacob.

O, if I shoulde needes haue Esau to my sonne, Rebecca.

Would God thou Jacob haddest the Elder ship wonne.

Yother, it is to late to wishe for that is past: Jacob.

It will not be done now with ye neuer so fast.

And I woulde not haue you to with agaynst Gods wyll:

For both it is in vaine, and also it is yll.

Why did it not please God, that thou shouldest as wel? Rebecca.

Treade vpon his crowne, as holde hym fast by the hele?

Whatsoener mysterie the Lorde therein ment, Jacob.

Must be referred to his vnserched iudgement.

And what soeuer he hath pointed me vnto,

I am his owne bestell his will with me to do.

Well, some straunge thing therein of God intended was, Rebecca.

And what he hath decreed, must sure come to passe. Jacob.

I remember when I had you both conceived, Rebecca.

A voyce thus saying from the Lorde I receiued:

Rebecca, in thy wombe are now two nations,

Of vnlike natures and contrary fashions.

The one shal be a mightier people elect:

And the elder to the yonger shal be subiect.

I knowe this voyce came not to me of nothing:

Therefore thou shalt folow my counsell in o thing.

So it be not displeasing to the Lorde I must. Jacob.

W. J. I feare

## The Historie of

Rebecca.

I feare the lord eke, who is mercifull and iust :  
And loth would I be, his maiestie to offende,  
But by me (I doubt not to worke he doth intende,  
A way if thou canst, at some one tyme or other,  
To buie the right of eldership from thy brother :  
Do thou buye the birthright that to hym doth belong,  
So mayst thou haue the blessing, and doe hym no wrong.  
What thou hast once bought, is thyne owne of due right.

Jacob.

Whether Rebecca, if withouten fraude I might,  
I would your aduise put in vze wyth all my hart,  
But I may not attempt any such guilefull part :  
To buie my brothers eldership and hys birthright,  
I feare woulde be a great offence in Gods sight.  
Which thyng if I wist, to redeme I ne wolde,  
Though I might get therby ten millions of golde.

Rebecca.

God, who by his worde and almightifull decree,  
Hath appoynted that Esau his lord to be,  
Hath appointed some way to haue it brought about,  
And that is thys way, my spyte doth not doute.

Jacob.

Upon your worde mother, I will assay ere long,  
But it grudgeth my heart to doe my brother wrong.

Rebecca.

Thou shalt do no wrong sonne Jacob, on my perill.

Jacob.

When by Gods leave once assay I wil.

Rebecca.

Then farewell dere son, Gods blessing & mine with thee.

Jacob.

I will againe to the Tent. Well you bee. Exit Jacob.

Rebecca.

Ah my swete sonne Jacob, good fortune God thee sende.  
The most gentle yong man aliue, as God me mende.  
And the moste naturall to father and mother :  
That such a meke spirite were in thy brother,  
Whose thy spye loued thee as thou hast merited,  
And then should Esau sone be disherited.

Actus









## *Jacob and Esau.*

### *Actus primi, Scæna quarta.*

Isaac the husbände,      Rebecca, the wife.  
Mido, the ladde that leadeth blinde Isaac.

**W**Here art thou my boy Mido, when I doe thee lacke?      Isaac.  
Who calleth Mido: here god maister Isaac.      Mido.  
Come leade me forth of dores a little I thee pray.      Isaac.  
Lay your hande on my shoulder, and come on this way.      Mido.  
Now O Lorde of heauen, the fountaine of all grace,      Rebecca.  
If it be thy god will that my will shall take place:  
Sende successe to Jacob, according to thy worde,  
That his elder brother may serue hym as his lorde.  
Sp?, whyther would ye goe, now that abroade ye be?      Mido.  
To myse Rebecca.      Isaac.  
Ponder I doe hir sex.      Mido.  
Lorde, thou knowest Jacob to be thy seruant true,      Rebecca.  
And Esau all frowarde thy wayes to ensue.  
Ponder she is speaking, what euer she doth say:      Mido.  
By holdyng vp hir handes, it seemeth she doth pray.  
Where be ye wife Rebecca: where be ye woman?  
Who is that calleth: Isaac my good man?  
Where be ye wyse Rebecca, lette me vnderstande?  
She commeth to you apace.  
Here my lorde, at hande.      Rebecca.  
Saying that what so euer God doth is all right,      Isaac.  
So small grieve it were for a man to lacke his sight.  
But what the Lord doth sende or worke by his high will,  
Can not but be the best, no such thing can be yll.  
All bodily punishment: or infirmitie,      Rebecca.  
With all mannes of nature, what euer they be,      Isaac.  
Pea and all other afflictions temporall:  
As losse, persecution, or troubles mortall,  
Are nothing but a triall or probation.  
And what is he that firmly trusteth in the Lorde,

## The Historie of

O: stedfastly beleueth his promise and worde,  
And knoweth him to be the God omnipotent,  
That feedeth and governeth all that he hath sent:  
Protecting his faithfull in euery degree,  
And them to relieue in all their necessitie:

What creature (I say) that both this vnderstande,

Will not take all thing in god parte at Gods hande:

Shall we at Gods hand receiue prosperitie,

And not be content likewise with aduersitie:

We ought to be thankfull what euer God hath sende,

And our selues wholly to his will to commende.

Rebecca.

So should it be, and I thanke my lord Isaac,

Suche dayly lessons at your hande I doe not lack.

Isaac.

Why then should not I thanke the Lorde, if it please him

That I shall nolue be blinde, and my sight waxe all dim.

For who so to olde age will here liue and endure,

Must of force abide all suche defaultes of nature.

Spido.

Why must I be blinde too, if I be an olde man:

How shall I grope the way, or who shall leade me then:

Isaac.

If the Lorde haue pointed thee such olde dayes to see,

He will also provide that shall be meete for thee.

Spido.

I trowe if I were blinde, I coulde goe well inow,

I coulde grope the way thus, and goe as I do nolue,

I haue done so ere now both by day and by night,

As I see you grope the way, and haue hitte it right.

Rebecca.

Pea sy boy, wilt thou play any suche childlike knack:

As to counterfaite your blinde maister Isaac:

That is but to mocke him for his impediment.

Spido.

Pay I neuer dyd it in any suche intent.

Rebecca.

Pay it is to tempt God before thou haue neede:

Wherby thou mayst prouoke hym in very deede,

With some great misfortune or plague to punish thee.

Spido.

Then will I neuer more do so while I may see:

But against I be blinde, I will be so persight,

That though no man leade me, I will go at midnight.

Polue







## *Jacob and Esau:*

Howe wise, touching the purpose that I sought for you. Isaac.

What sayth my lord Isaac to his handmayde now? Rebecca.

Ye haue ofte in couerte wordes ben right earnest Isaac.

To haue me graunt vnto you a boorne and request:

But ye neuer tolde me yet plainly what it was,

Wherefore I haue ener yet lette the matter passe.

And now of late by ofte being from me absent,

I haue halfe suspected you to be scarce content.

But wise Rebecca, I woulde not haue you to mourne,

As though I did your honest petition wourne.

For I neuer ment to denie in all my life

Any lawfull or honest request to my wyfe.

But in case it be a thing vnrasonable,

Then must I needs be to you vnractable.

Now therfore say on, and tell me what is your case.

I woulde, if I were sure in your heart to fynde grace: Rebecca.

Else say I woulde be loshe.

To speake do not refraine, Isaac.

And if it be reasonable ye shall obtaine:

Othervise, ye must pardon me gentle swete wyfe.

Sir, ye knowe your sonne Esau, and se his life, Rebecca.

Howe late it is, and howe stiffe he is and stubberne,

Howe retchelesly he doth him selfe misgouerne:

Heggeueth hymselfe to hunting out of reason,

And serueth the Lorde and vs at no time or season.

These conditions can not be acceptable

In the syght of God, nor to men allowable.

Howe his brother Jacob your yonger sonne and mine,

Dothe more appple his heart to sake the wayes diuine.

He liueth here quietly at home in the Tent,

There is no man nor childe but is with him content.

O my wyfe, I perceiue ye speake of affection, Isaac.

To Jacob ye beare loue, and to his brother none.

I deede say, I can not leue Esau so well Rebecca.

As I doe Jacob, the plaine truth to you to tell.



## The Historie of

For I haue no comfozte of Esau God wot :  
I scarce know where I haue a sonne of hym or not.  
He goeth abroade so early before day light,  
And returneth home againe so late in the night,  
And vneth I sette eye on hym in the whole weeke :  
So sometime not in twaine, though I doe for hym seeke.  
And all the neighbours see him as seldome as I.  
But when they would take rest, they heare hym blow & cry.  
Some see him so seldome, they aske if he be sicke :  
Somtimes some demaunde whether he be dead or quicke.  
But to make short tale, such his conditions be,  
That I wishe of God he had nere bene borne of me.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Well wyse, I loue Esau, and must for causes twaine.  
Surely your loue is bestowed on him in vayne.  
First aaine he is, as any yong man can be :  
And many a good morsell he bringeth home to me.  
Then he is myne eldest and first begotten sonne.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Isaac.

If God were so pleased, I woulde that were fordonne.  
And the eldest sonne is called the fathers might.  
If yours rest in Esau, God giue vs good night.  
A prerogative he hath in euery thing.  
More pitie he shoulde haue it without deseruing.  
Of all the goddes his porcion is greater.  
That the worthy shoulde haue it, I thinke much better.  
Among his bretherne, he hath the preeminence.  
Where Esau is chiefe, there is a gay presence.  
ouer his bretherne he is soueraigne and lord.  
Such dignitie in Esau doth yll accorde.  
He is the head of the fathers succession.  
I woulde Esau had losse that possession.  
And he hath the chiefe title of inheritaunce.  
Wisdomme woulde in Esau chaunge that ordinaunce.  
To the eldest sonne is due the fathers blessing.  
That shoulde be Jacobs, if I might haue my wishing.  
And the chiefe endowment of the fathers substance.

Which







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## Jacob and Esau.

Which will thine well in Esau his governance.  
By title of Eldership he hath his birthright.  
And that would I remove to Jacob if I might.  
He must have double portion to an other.  
That were more fitte for Jacob bys yonger brother,  
In all maner of things diuided by a rate.  
Well gyuen goddes to him that the Lorde both hate.  
Why say ye so of Esau mine eldest sonne?  
I say true, if he procéde as he hath begonne.  
Is he not your sonne too, as well as he is myne?  
Wherfore do ye then against him thus soze repine?  
Because that in my spirite verily I know,  
God will set by Jacob, and Esau downe throwe.  
I haue shewed you many a tyme ere this day,  
What the Lorde of them beynge in my wombe byd say.  
I vse not so; to lye: And I beleue certayne,  
That the Lorde spake not these wordes to me in vaine.  
And Jacob it is (I know) in whome the Lorde will  
His promises to you made, and to your seede fulfill.  
I doubt not his promise made to me and my seede,  
Leauing to his conueyance howe it shall procéde.  
The Lorde after his way chaunge thin heritage,  
But I may not wetingly breake our ordinance.  
For we woulde God, I coulde perswade my lorde Isaac,  
Jacob to preferre, and Esau to put backe.  
I may not do it wise, I pray you be content.  
The title of birthright that cometh by descent,  
Or the place of eldership comming by due course  
I may not chaunge nor shift, for better nor the worse.  
Natures lawe it is, the eldest sonne to knoledge,  
And in no wise to barre tym of his heritage.  
And ye shall of Esau one day haue comforte.  
Set a good long day then, or else we shal come short.  
I warrant you, he will doe well inough at length.  
You must needs comend him being your might & strength.  
Weil,

## The Historie of

- Isaac.** Well, now we go we hence, little **Spido** where art thou?  
**Spido.** I haue stode here all thys while, listning howe you  
And my Dame Rebecca haue bene laying the lawe,  
But she hath as quicke answeres as euer I sawe.  
He coulde not speake any thing vnto hir so thicke,  
But she had hir answeres as ready and as quicke.  
**Isaac.** Yea, womens answeres are but fewe times to seeke.  
**Spido.** But I did not see Esau neither all this same worke.  
No? I do loue your sonne Esau so well,  
As I do loue your sonne Jacob by a great deale.  
**Isaac.** No doest thou **Spido**, and tell me the cause why?  
**Spido.** Why: for I doe not: And none other cause knowe I.  
But euery body as well one as other,  
Doe wish that Jacob had bene the elder brother.  
**Isaac.** Well, come on, let vs goe.  
**Spido.** And who shall leade you?  
**Rebecca.** No, it is my office as long as I am by:  
And I woulde all times, as the world is this day is,  
Woulde vnto their husbandes likewise do their office.  
**Spido.** Why dame Rebecca, then all wedded men shold be blind.  
**Rebecca.** What thou foolish ladde, no such thing was in my minde:

## Actus secundi, scæna prima.

**Ragau.** the Seruant of Esau.

- Ragau.** I haue hearde it ofte, but now I seele a wonder,  
In what grievous paine they die, that die for hunger.  
Oh my grædie stomacke holwe it doth bite and gnawe:  
If I were at a racke, I coulde eate hey or strawe.  
Mine emptie gutts doe frette, my mawle doth euen teare,  
Woulde God I had a peece of some horsehead here:  
Yet is master Esau in worse case than I.  
If he haue not some meate the soner he will die:  
We hath sonke for faintnesse twice or thrice by the way.

And







## *Jacob and Esau.*

And not one stelp bitte we got since yester day.  
All that euer he hath, he woulde haue giuen to day  
To haue had but thre morsels his hunger to allay.  
Oz in the fielde to haue mette with some hoggs,  
I coulde scarcely kepe him from eating of these doggs.  
He hath sent me afoze some meate soz to prouide,  
And commeth creéping after, scarce able to stride.  
But if I knowe where to get of any man,  
For to ease myne owne selfe, as hungry as I am,  
I pray God I sinke : but if any come to me,  
Die who die will, soz sure I will first serued be.  
I will se if any be ready here at home :  
Oz whether Jacob haue any that peakishe mome.  
But first I must put all my dogges by,  
And lay by thys geare, and then God sende vs the cup.

## *Actus secundi, scæná secunda.*

Esau the maister.

Ragau the seruant.

O what a grienous pain is hunger to a man :  
Take all that I haue soz meate, helpe who that can.  
O Lozde, some god body soz Gods sake gyue me meate.  
I soze not what it were, so that I had to eate.  
Meate oz drinke, saue my life, oz breade, I recke not what.  
If there be nothing else, some man giue me a cat.  
If any god body on me will doe so much cost,  
I will teare and eate hir rawe, she shall nere be rost,  
I promise of honestie I will eate hir rawe.  
And what a nody was I, and a howeson datwe,  
To let Ragau goe with all my doggs at ones :  
A shoulde of a dogge were nowe meate soz the nones.  
O what shall I doe : my teéth I can scarcely charme,  
From gnawing away the braune of my very arme.  
I can no longer stande soz faynt, I must nédes lie.  
And except meate come sone, remediless I die.

Esau.

Commeth in  
so faint that he  
can scarce go.

C.1.

And

## *The Historie of*

- And where art thou Kagan whome I sent befoze?  
Unlesse thou come at once, I neuer see thee more.  
Where art thou Kagan, I heare not of thee yet?  
Kagan. Here as fast as I can, but no meate can I get.  
Not one draught of drinke, not one poyse morsel of bread  
Not one bit or crum though I shold streight way be dead.  
Therefore ye may nowe see how much ye are to blame,  
That wil thus serue your self so; following your game.  
Esau. Ah thou villain, tellest thou me this now?  
If had thee, I woulde eate thee, to God I bowe,  
Ah, meat thou hozson, why hast thou not brought me meat?  
Kagan. Would you haue me bring you that I can nowhere geat.  
Esau. Come hither, let me tell thee a worde in thine eare.  
Kagan. Nay, speake out aloude: I will not come a foote nere.  
Fall ye to snatching at folkes: adieu I am gone.  
Esau. Nay for gods loue Kagan, leaue me not alone:  
I will not eate thee Kagan, so God me helpe.  
Kagan. No, I shall desire you to chouse some other whelpe.  
Being in your best lust I woulde topple with ye,  
And plucke a good crowe ere ye brake your fast with me.  
What: are you mankene now: I reckon it best I,  
To bind your handes behind you euen as ye lye.  
Esau. Nay haue mercy on me, and let me not perishe.  
Kagan. In faith nought coulde I get wherewith you to cherishe.  
Esau. Was there nothing to be had among so many?  
Kagan. I coulde not finde one but Jacob that had any,  
And no grannt woulde he make for ought that I coulde say,  
Yet no man alike with fairer wordes coulde him pray.  
But the best redde pottage he hath that euer was.  
Esau. So pray him I may speake with him once ere I passe.  
Kagan. That message by Gods grace shall not long be vndone.  
Esau. Die thee go apace, and returne againe sone.  
If Jacob haue due brotherly compassion,  
He will not see me faine after this fashon,  
But I dare say, the wretche had rather see me throst,  
Then







## *Iacob and Esau.*

Than he would finde in his harte to do so muche cost :  
For where is betwene one freman and an other,  
Lesse loue found than now betwene brother and brother?  
Will Iacob come south to shewe comfote vnto me?  
The horeson hypocrite will as sone hanged be.  
Yet peace, me thinketh Iacob is comming in dede:  
And my minde geneth me at his hande I shall speede.  
For he is as gentle and louing as can be,  
As full of compassion and pitie.  
But let me see, both he come? no I warrant you.  
He come quod I : tush, he come? then hang Esau.  
For there is not this daye in all the worlde rounde,  
Suche an other bodypeake wretche to be founde.  
And Iagau my man, is not that a fine knaue?  
Haue any mo maisters suche a man as I haue?  
So idle, so loytring, so trifling, so toying?  
So prattling, so tratling, so chiding, so boying?  
So iesting, so wrestling, so mocking, so mowing?  
So nipping, so tripping, so cocking, so crowing?  
So knapping, so snapping, so eluishing, so froward?  
So crabbed, so wrabbed, so stiffe, so vntowarde?  
In play or in pastime, so iocunde, so mery?  
In wooke or in labour so dead or so weary?  
Oh that I had his eare betwene my teeth now,  
I should shake him euen as a dog that lulleth a sow.  
But in faith if euer I recover my selfe,  
There was neuer none trounced as I shal trounce that elfe.  
He and Iacob are agreed I dare say, I,  
Not to come at all, but to suffre me here to die.  
Whiche if they do, they shall finde this same word true,  
That after I am dead, my soule shall them pursue.  
I will be auenged on all foes till I dye.  
Pea and take vengeance when I am deade to I.  
For I mistrust against me agreed they haue:  
For thone is but a fole, and thother a starke knaue.

C.ij.

I assure



## *The Historie of*

- Ragau. I assure you Jacob, the man is very weake.  
Eſau. But hearken once again, me thinke I heare them ſpeake.  
Ragau. I promiſe you I feare his lyfe be alreadie paſt.  
Jacob. Mary God forbidde.  
Eſau. Doe notwe they come at laſt.  
Ragau. If ye beleue not me, ſee your ſelfe where he is.  
Jacob. Fye brother Eſau, what a ſoly is this?  
About vaine paſſime to wander abroad, and peake,  
Til with hunger you make your ſelfe thus faint & weake.  
Eſau. Brother Jacob, I pray you chide now no longer,  
But giue me ſomewhat wherewith to ſlake mine hunger.  
Jacob. Alack brother, I haue in my little cotage,  
Nothing but a meaſe of groſſe and homely pottage.  
Eſau. Refreſhe me therewithall, and boldly aſke of me,  
The beſt thing that I haue, what ſoeuer it be.  
I were a very beaſt, when thou my life doeſt ſaue,  
If I ſhoulde ſticke with thee for the beſt thyng I haue.  
Jacob. Can ye be content to ſell your birthright to me?  
Eſau. Holde, here is my hande, I doe ſell it here to thee.  
With all the profites thereof henceforth to be thine,  
As free, as full, as large, as euer it was mine.  
Jacob. Then ſwear thou hand in hand beſore the lyving Lord,  
This bargaine to fulfill, and to ſtande by thy worde.  
Eſau. Beſore the Lord I ſwear, to whom eche heart is known  
That my birthright that was, from henceforth is thine owne.  
Jacob. Thou ſhalt alſo with me by this promiſe indent,  
With this bargaine and ſale to holde thy ſelfe content.  
Eſau. If eche penie therof might be worth twentie pounde,  
I willingly to thee ſurrender it this ſounde.  
And if eche cicle might be worth a whole talent,  
I promiſe with this ſale to holde me content.  
Jacob. Come, let vs ſet him on ſote that he may goe ſup.  
Ragau. Nay, firſt I will knowe a thing, ere I helpe him vp.  
Sirra, will ye eate folke when ye are long faſting?  
Eſau. No, I pray thee helpe me vp, and leaue thy teſtyng.







## Jacob and Esau.

**Do** trow, eate your bzother Jacob nowe if you lust.  
**Fo**r you shall not eate me, I tell you, that is iust.  
**Come**, that with my pottage thou mayst refreshed be.  
**There** is no meate on earth that so wel liketh me.  
**Yet** I may tell you, it is potage dearely bought.  
**Do** not a whitte, fo: my bargaine take thou no thought.  
**I** desyre that birthright that shoulde be of more price,  
**Than** helping of ones selfe, I am not so vnwise.  
**And** how then sir, shall poze Ragau haue no meate?  
**Yes**, and if thou canst my bzother Jacob intreate.  
**God** graunt I haue inough fo: Esau alone.  
**Why** then I perceyue poze Ragau shall haue none.  
**Well**, much good do it you with your potage of Rice:  
**I** woulde fast and fare yll, ere I eate of that price.  
**Woulde** I sell my birthright beyng an eldest sonne?  
**Fo**rsoth then were it a faire thraede that I had sponne.  
**And** then to lette it goe fo: a meale of pottage,  
**What** is that, but bothe vnthriftinesse and dotage?  
**Alack**, a lack, god blessed father Isaac,  
**That** euer sonne of thine, shoulde play such a leude knacke.  
**And** yet I doe not thinke but God this thyng hath wrought,  
**Fo**r Jacob is as good as Esau is nought.  
**But** forth commeth Mido, as fast as he can trot:  
**Fo**r a cicle, whether to call me in o: not?

Ragau.

Jacob.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Esau.

Jacob.

Ragau.

Esau entring  
 into Jacobs tent  
 shaketh Ra-  
 gau off.

## Actus secundi, scæna tertia

Mido the boy.

Ragau.

**HA**, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha,  
**Po**wie who satwe ere suche an other as Esau?  
**By** my truthe I will not lie to the Ragau,  
**Since** I was bozne, I neuer see any man  
**So** greedily eate rice out of a potte o: pan.  
**He** woulde not haue a dishe, but take the pot and sup.

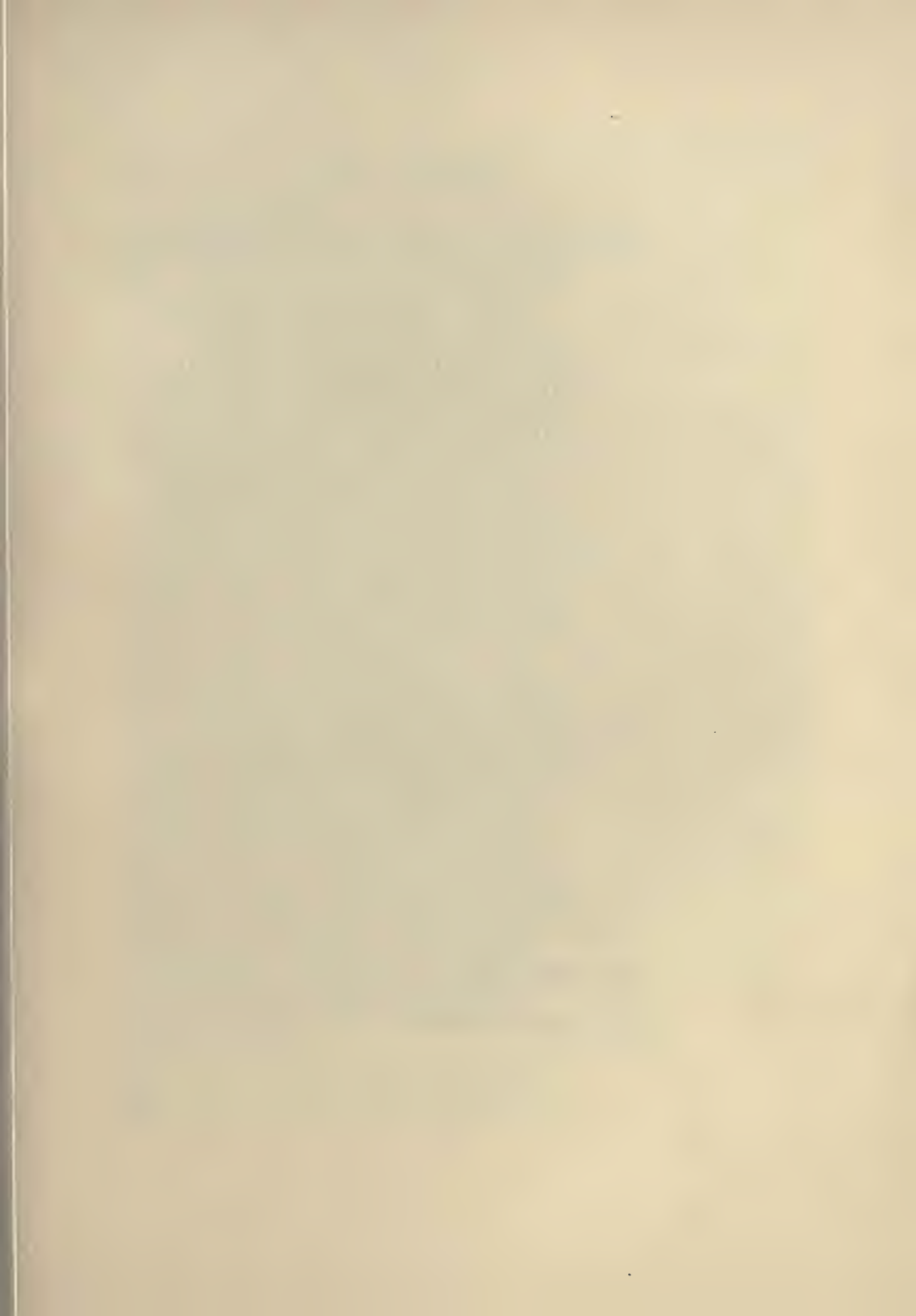
Mido cometh  
 in clapping  
 his hands, and  
 laughing.

C. iij.

38

## The Historie of

- Ragan.** We neuer sawe hungry dogge so slabbe potage by.  
**Wido.** Why holwe did he suppe it? I pray the tel me how.  
**Ragan.** Mary even thus, as thou shalte see me do now.  
**Wido.** Oh I thanke you Jacob: with all my hart Jacob.  
**Ragan.** Gently done Jacob: A frendely parte Jacob.  
**Wido.** I can suppe so Jacob.  
**Ragan.** Pea than wyl I suppe too Jacob.  
**Wido.** Here is good meate Jacob.  
**Ragan.** As ere was cate Jacob.  
**Wido.** As ere I sawe Jacob.  
**Ragan.** Efan a daine Jacob.  
**Wido.** Swete rice pottage Jacob.  
**Ragan.** By Efans dotage Jacob.  
**Wido.** Joily god chere Jacob.  
**Ragan.** But bought full deere Jacob.  
**Wido.** I was hungry Jacob.  
**Ragan.** I was an ynthryst Jacob.  
**Wido.** He will none nolwe Jacob.  
**Ragan.** I can not for you Jacob.  
**Wido.** I will eate all Jacob.  
**Ragan.** The demyll go wiffhall Jacob.  
**Wido.** Thou art a god sonne Jacob.  
**Ragan.** And woulde he neuer have done Jacob.  
**Wido.** No, but still coge lo in like Iache dow that cries ha hob.  
**Ragan.** That to be kylde I coulde not laughyng forbear:  
**Wido.** And therfore I came out, I durst not abide there.  
**Ragan.** Is there any pottage lesse for me that thou wotte?  
**Wido.** No. I left Efan about to lick the pottage.  
**Ragan.** Lick quod thou: now a shame take him that can all lick.  
**Wido.** The pottage shall nede no walshing, he will it so lick.  
**Ragan.** And by this he is sitting downe to bread and drinke.  
**Wido.** And shal I haue no part with hym, doste thou thinke?  
**Ragan.** No, for he praide Jacob ere he did begin,  
**Wido.** To shutte the tent fast that no mo gesses come in.  
**Ragan.** And made he no mention of me his servant?







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## Jacob and Esau.

He sayd thou were a knane, and bad thee hence, quant. **Esau.**  
Go shift where thou couldest, thou gottest nothing there.  
God yelde you Esau, with all my stomacher. **Ragau.**  
I must in againe, lest perhaps I be shent, **Esau.**  
For I asked no body licence when I went. **Esau.**  
Say it is his nature, doe what ye can for him, **Ragau.**  
Do thanke at his hand but chouse you sinke or swim.  
Then reason it with him in a mete time and place,  
And he shall be ready to slee straight in your face.  
This prouerbe in Esau may be vnderstande  
Clawe a churle by the tayle, and he will file your hand.  
Well ywishe Esau, ye did knowe well ynowe  
That I had as muche nede to be meated as you.  
Haue I trotted and trudged all night and all day,  
And now leane me without doze, and so go your way.  
Haue I spent so muche labour for you to prouide,  
And you nothing regarde what of me may betide?  
Haue I runne with you while I was able to go,  
And now you purchase sode for your selfe and no more.  
Haue I taken so long paine you truly to serue,  
And can ye be content that I starue and sterue?  
I must lackey and come lugging greyhound and hound,  
And carry the weight I dare say of twentie pound.  
And to helpe his hunger purchase grace and fauour,  
And now to be shutte out fasting for my labour.  
By my faith I may say, I serue a god maister,  
Say nay, I serue an ill husband and a waster,  
That neither profite regardeth nor honestie,  
What meruaile I then if he passe so light on me?  
But Esau nowe that ye haue solde your birthright,  
I comende me to you, and god geue you good night.  
And let a friend tell him his faute at any time,  
Ye shall heare him chafe beyonde all reason or rime.  
Except it were a fiende or a verie helhonde,  
Ye neuer sawe the matche of him in any grounde.

When

## The Historie of

When I shew him of good will what others do say,  
He will fall out with me, and offer me a fray.  
And what can there be a worse condition,  
Than to doe yll, and refuse admonition?  
Can such a one prosper, or come to a good ende?  
Then I care not howe many children God me sende.  
Once Esau shall not beguile me, I can tell:  
Except he shall fortune to amende, or doe well.  
Therefore why doe I about hym wast thus much talke,  
Whome no man can induce ordinarly to walke?  
But some man perchaunce both not a little wonder,  
Howe I who but right now did roze out for hunger,  
Haue now so muche vacant and boyde time of leasure,  
To walke and to talke, and discourse all of pleasure.  
I tolde you at the fyre, I would provide for one:  
My mother taught me that lesson a good while agoe.  
When I came to Jacob his friendship to require,  
I dwelt nere and nere tyl I came to the fyre.  
There hard besyde me stode the potage pot,  
Euen as God would haue it, neither colde nor hot,  
God simple Jacob coulde not tourne his backe so thicke,  
But I at the ladell got a goulpe or a licke.  
So that ere I went I made a very good meale.  
And dynde better cheape than Esau a good deale.  
But here cometh nowe maister Esau forth.

### Actus secundi, Scena quarta.

Esau, and Ragau.

Esau.

He cometh  
forth wiping  
his mouth.

A Sir, when one is hungry, good meat is much worth.  
And well fare a good brother yet in time of neede,  
The world is now metely well amended in neede.  
By my truth if I had bidden from meate any longer,  
I thinke my very maue would haue sette asonder.

Then







## *Jacob and Esau.*

Then had I bene dead and gone I make God a bolue.  
 Surely then the world had had a great losse of you. Ragau.  
 For where should we haue had your felow in your place?  
 What shold I haue done with my birthright in this case. Esau.  
 Kept it still, and ye had not bene a very asse. Ragau.  
 But the best pottage it was yet that euer was. Esau.  
 It were sinne not to sell ones soule for such geare.  
 Ye haue done no lesse in my conscience I feare. Ragau.  
 Who is this that standeth clattering at my backe? Esau.  
 A poore man of yours sir, that doth his dinner lacke. Ragau.  
 Dinner whoreson knaue? dinner at this time a day? Esau.  
 Nothing with thee, but dinner and mounching allway.  
 Why thou whoreson villain slaue, who is hungry now?  
 In dede sy? (as seemeth by your wordes) not you. Ragau.  
 A man were better sell the bellies of some twelfe, Esau.  
 Than to fill the gutte of one such whoreson else,  
 That doth none other good but eate and drinke and slepe.  
 He shall do some thing els whom ye shall haue to kepe. Ragau.  
 And that maketh thee so slouthfull and so lyther, Esau.  
 I dare saie he was sixe houres comming hither,  
 When I sent him to make prouision afoze,  
 Not passing a myle hence or very litle moze.  
 And yet being so farre past the houre of dining,  
 See and the knaue be not for his dinner whining.  
 Fast a while, fast with a mischiefie greedy slaue,  
 Must I prouide meate for euery glutton knaue?  
 I may fast for any meate that of you I haue. Ragau.  
 Or deserue thy dinner before thou do it crane. Esau.  
 If I haue not deserued it at this season, Ragau.  
 I shall neuer deserue it in mine owne reason.  
 Ye promised I should eate till I cried hoe.  
 Yea that was if we toke either hare, tegge, or Doe. Esau.  
 But when your selfe were hungry, ye said I wot what. Ragau.  
 What thou villaine slaue, tellest thou me now of that? Esau.  
 Then, helpe, runne apace, Ragau my god seruant. Ragau.

D.I.

Yea



## *The Historie of*

- Elau. Pea then was then, now is it other wise : anaunt.  
Haue I nothing to do but prouide meate for you ?  
Ragau. Ye might haue geue me som part when ye had ynough.  
Elau. What, of the red rice pottage with Iacob I had ?  
Why, the crow would not geue it hir bird, thou art mad  
Is that meate for you ? nay it would make you to ranke.  
Say soft bꝛother mine, I must kepe you moze lanke.  
It hath made me euen since so lusty and freshe,  
As though I had eaten all delicates of fleshe.  
I sele no maner faintnesse wherof to complaine.  
Ragau. Yet to morow ye must be as hungry againe,  
Then must ye and will ye wishe againe for god chere :  
And repent you that euerye bought this so dere.  
Elau. Repent me : wherefore, then the Lorde geue me morow,  
If it were to do, I would do it to morow.  
For thou foolish knaue, what hath Iacob of me bought ?  
Ragau. But a matter of a strawe, and a thing of nought.  
Elau. My birthright and whole title of mine elder ship.  
Marry sir I pray God much good do it his maship,  
If I die to morow, what good would it do me ?  
If he die to morow, what benefite hath he ?  
And for a thing hanging on suche casualtie :  
Better a meale of pottage than nothing pardy.  
If my father liue long, when should I it enioy ?  
If my father die sone, then is it but a toy.  
For if the time were come, thinkest thou that Iacob,  
Should finde Elau such a loute or such a lob,  
To suffer him to enioy my birthright in rest ?  
Nay, I wil speake tosse him and trounce him of the beste,  
I thinke to finde it a matter of conscience,  
And Iacob first to haue a fart for reuerence.  
When my father Isaac shall the matter know :  
He will not let Iacob haue my birthright I trow.  
Or if he should kepe it as his owne, I pray you,  
Might not I liue without it and doe wel enow ?







## *Jacob and Esau.*

Do none but mennes eldest sonnes prosper well ?  
How lue ponger birth: en then, I beseeche you tell :  
Once, if any thing be by the sword to be got :  
This salchion and I will haue part to our lot.  
But now come en, go we abroade a while and walke,  
Let my birthright go, and of other matters talke.

Who ? I walke: nay I trow not, til I haue better binde. *Ragau.*  
It is moze time to sake where I may some meate finde.

What saist thou drabwlathe ? come forth with a mischeef. *Esau.*  
Wilt thou not go with me ? on forward whoweson that.  
Shall it be as pleaseth you, or as pleaseth me ?

Nay as pleaseth you syr, me thinke it must be.

*Ragau.*

And where be my dogs ? and my hound ? be they all wel ? *Esau.*

Better than your man, for they be in their kennell.

*Ragau.*

Then go see all be well in my parte of the tent.

*Esau.*

With a right good will syr, I go incontinent.

*Ragau.*

And I will to my fiede the which I clenfed last,

*Esau.*

To see what hope there is, that it will yelde fruite laste.

## *Actus secundi, scæna quarta*

*Jacob. Mido. Rebecca. Abra, the handmayde.*

**T**hou knowest litle Mido where my mother is.

*Jacob.*

I can go to hir as freight as a threde, and not misse.

*Mido.*

Go cal hir, and come againe with her thine owne selfe.

*Jacob.*

Yes, ye shall see me scude like a litle else.

*Mido.*

Where I haue by the enticement of my mother,

*Jacob.*

Bargained and boughte the birthrighte of my brother :

Tourne it all to god O Lorde, if it be thy wyll :

Thou knowest my heart Lorde, I did it for no ill.

And what euer shall please thee to worke or to do,

Thou shalt finde me prest and obedient therto.

But here is my mother Rebecca now in place.

How say you master Jacob, ranne not I apace ?

*Mido.*

Yes, and a god sonne to go quicke on your errand.

*Jacob.*

*D.ij.*

*Donne*

## *The Historie of*

- Rebecca. Sonne how goeth the matter: let me vnderstand.  
 Jacob. Forsooth mother, I did so as ye me bade,  
 Esau to sell me all his birthright persuaide.  
 Rebecca. Hast thou bought it in dede, and he therewith content?  
 Jacob. Yea, and haue his promise, that he will neuer repent.  
 Rebecca. Is the bargaine thorough: hast thou paid him his price?  
 Jacob. Yea that I haue, a mease of red pottage of rice,  
 And he eate it by euery whit well I wotte.  
 Mido. When he had supte by all, I sawe him licke the pottle.  
 Thus he licked, and thus he licked, and this way.  
 I thought to haue lickt the pottle my selfe once to day.  
 But Esau beguilde me, I shewde him for that,  
 And lest not so muche as a licke for pisse our catte.  
 Rebecca. Sonne Jacob, sozasmuche as thou hast so well sped,  
 With an himne or psalme let the Lord be praised.  
 Sing we all together, and geue thanks to the Lord,  
 Whose promise and performauce do so wel accord.  
 Mido. Shal we sing the same himne that at our house doth sing?  
 For Abraham and his seede to geue God praising.  
 Rebecca. Yea the very same.  
 Mido. Then must we all knele downe thus,  
 And Abza our maide here must also sing with vs,  
 Knele downe Abza, what I say, will ye not knele downe?  
 Knele when I bid you, the slackest wench in this towne.

Here they knele downe to sing all foure, sauing that  
 Abra is slackest, and Mido is quickest.

The firste  
 song.

*B*lessed be thou, O the God of Abraham,  
 For thou art the Lord our God, and none but thou:  
 What thou workest to the glory of thy name,  
 Passeth mannes reason to seache what way or how.  
 Thy promise it was Abraham should haue seede,  
 More than the starres of the skie to be told,  
 He beleued and had Isaac in deede,

*When*







## *Jacob and Esau.*

When both he and Sara seemed very olde.

Isaac many yeres longed for a sonne,  
Rebecca thy handmaid long time was barraine,  
By prayer in thy sight such favour he wonne,  
That at one birth she brought him forth sons twaine,  
Wherefore O Lorde, we do confesse and beleue,  
That both thou canst and wilt thy promise fulfill:  
But how it shall come we can no reason geue,  
Sane all to be wrought according to thy Will.

Blessed be thou O God of Abraham. &c.

How dout not Jacob, but God hath appointed thee  
As the eldest sonne vnto Isaac to bee:  
And now haue no dout, but thou art sure elected,  
And that vnto thee Esau of God reiecte,  
And to sell thee his birthright since he was so madde,  
I warrant thee the blessing that he should haue had.

Yea: how may that be wrought?

Yea, yea, let me alone.

O yes god olde Isaac is blinde, and can not see,  
So that by policie he may be beguiled bee.  
I shall deuise howe, for no yll intent, ne thought,  
But to bring to passe that I know god wil haue wrought  
And I charge you twaine, Abza, and litle Pido.

May ye should haue set Pido before Abza, trow.  
For I am a man toward, and so is not she.

No but yet I am more woman toward than ye.  
I charge you both that what euer hath bene spoken,  
Ye do not to any liuing body open.

For my parte it shall to no body uttered be.  
And sit my tongue, if euer it come out for me:

But if any tell, Abza here, will be prattling.  
For they say, women will euer be clattering.

There is none here that prattleth so much as you.  
No mo words, but hence we altogether now, exeat omnes.

D. iij.

Actus

Rebecca.

Jacob.  
Rebecca.

Pido.

Abza.  
Rebecca.

Abza.  
Pido.

Abza.  
Rebecca.

*The Historie of*  
Actus tertij, scæna prima.

Esau.      Isaac.      Mido.

Esau.      **N**OW since I last saw mine olde father Isaac,  
Both I do thinke it long, and he will iudge me slack  
But he cometh forth, I will here lissen and see,  
Whether he shall chaunce to speake any worde of me.

Isaac.      On leade me forth Mido, to the benche on this hand,  
That I may sitte me downe, for I can not long stand.

Mido.      Here is this same way, and ye be at the benche now,  
Where ye may sit doune in gods name if please you.

Isaac.      I marvel where Esau my sonne doth become,  
That he doth now of daies visite me so seldome.  
But it is oft sene whome fathers do best fauour,  
Of them they haue left lone againe for their labour.  
I thinke since I saw him it is a whole weeke.  
In faith little Mido I would thou wouldest him seeke.

Mido.      Forsoth maister Isaac, and I knew it where,  
It should not be very long ere I would be there.  
But shall I at aduenture go seeke where he is?

Esau.      Seeke no farther Mido, already here he is.

Isaac.      We thinketh I haue Esau his voice perceiued.

Esau.      Ye gesse truly father, ye are not deceiued.

Mido.      Here he is come now inuisible by my soule:  
For I saw him not till he spake harde at my poule,  
Now go thou in Mido, let vs two here alone.

Isaac.      Sir if ye commaund me, full quickly I am gone.

Mido.      Yet and if I call thee, see thou be not slacke.

Isaac.      I come at the first call, good maister Isaac.

Mido.      Sonne Esau.

Esau.      Here father.

Isaac.      Is none here but we?

Esau.      None to herken our talke father, that I do see.

Isaac.      Sonne Esau, why hast thou bene from me so long?

Esau.      I cry you mercy father, if I haue done wrong.

But







*Iacob and Esau.*

But I am loth to trouble you hauing nothing  
To present you withall, noz benison to bring.

Sonne Esau, thou knowest that I do thee lone.  
I thanke you for it father as doth me behoue.  
And now thou seest my dayes draw towarde an ende,  
That is to me great ruth if I coulde it amende.  
I must go the way of all mortall fleshe.

Isaac.  
Esau.  
Isaac.  
Esau.  
Isaac.

Therefore while my memozy and witte is yet freshe,  
I woulde thee endow mine heritage to succede:  
And blisse thee, (as I ought) to multiply my seede.  
The God of my father Abraham, and of me,  
Hath promised, that our seede as the sande shal be.  
He is a God of truth, and in his wordes iust.  
Therefore in my wozyng shal be no faute I trust.  
Now therefore sonne Esau, get thee sozth to hunte,  
With thy bowe and quiver, as erst thou hast bene wont,  
Bring me of thy venison that is good.

Ye shall haue of the best that runneth in the wood.  
When thou comest home, to dresse it, it shal behoue:  
And to make for mine owne tooth such meate as I lone.  
Thus do mine owne dere sonne, and then I shal thee kisse  
With the kisse of peace, and thee for ever blisse.

Esau.  
Isaac.

Your will I accomplishe moste dere father Isaac,  
With all good hast and speede, I shal not be found slack.

Esau.

Then helpe lead me home, in my tente that I were set.  
And then go when thou wilt.

Isaac.

I shal withouten lette.

Esau.

*Actus tertij, scæna secunda.*

*Rebecca.*

This talke of Isaac in secrete haue I heard.  
And what end it should come to my hert is afeard.  
Here had I so muche ado to forbear to speake.  
But the Lorde (I trust) will Isaacs purpose breake.

Rebecca.

¶ god



## The Historie of

Here she kne-  
leth downe and  
prayeth.

O God of Abraham, make it of none effecte :  
Let Iacob haue the blessing whom thou hast elect.  
I for my parte shall worke what may be wrought,  
That it may to Iacob from Esau be brought,  
And in will I go to see what I can deuise,  
That Isaacs intent may sayle in any wise.

## Actus tertij, Scæna tertia.

Ragau.

Esau.

Ragau.

Here he com-  
meth forth  
with his hun-  
ting staffe and  
other things  
and a bag of  
vitrules.

Nay, we must on hunting go, yet once more again  
And neuer com home now except we speede certain.  
But I trowe for hunger I haue prouided here :  
That what euer befall, I Ragau shall haue there.  
I haue no time to tell what delicacies here be,  
But thinke this to be true for better men than me.  
And what shall Esau hereof haue any parte ?  
Nay I trust to conueigh it by such praty arte,  
That till the bag be clere, he shal it neuer see.  
I shall, and if he faint, feede him as he fedde me.  
I shall requite his shutting me out of the doore.  
That if he bidde me runne to get him meat afoze,  
I shall runne as fast as my feet were made of leade,  
And tell him, there is none, though I may wel be spead.  
I will be euen with him for my fare last day  
When he was with Iacob.

Esau.

Ragau.

What is it that thou doest say ?

Sir on your behalfe I earnestly wishe and pray,  
That if like neede chaunce, ye may fare as last day  
When ye were with Iacob.

Esau.

Ragau.

Well, come on, let vs go.

Euen when ye will, is there let in me or no? Exit ambo.

Actus







*Jacob and Esau.*

*Actus quarti, scæna prima.*

Rebecca.

Jacob.

**S**onne Jacob euen now is come the very houre,  
That if thou haue any grace or hearte or power,  
To play thy parte well, and sticke vnto it throughtout,  
Esau his blessing will be thine without doubt.

Rebecca.

Whether I know your good will to be vnfained :  
But I see not which waye the thing may be attained.

Jacob.

I haue it contriued how all thing shall be done,  
Do thou as I shall bid thee, and it will be wonne.

Rebecca.

Whether in me shall be no faulte or negligence.

Jacob.

Then herken very well vnto this my sentence.

Rebecca.

I hearde olde Isaac in a long solempne talke,  
Bid thy brother Esau to the felde to walke,  
And there with his bowe to kill him some venison,  
Which brought and dressed, he to haue his venison.  
For I am aged (sayd Isaac) truly :

And would blesse thee dere sonne before that I dye.

Now is Esau gone to do it euen so.

But while he is away, I would haue thee to go,  
Abroade vnto the flocke, and set me kiddes twain.

Of which I shall with a trice make such meate certain,  
As shall say come eate me, and make olde Isaac  
Like his lippes therat, so toothsom shall it smacke.

I shall make him therof such as he doth loue,

Which in thy brothers stead to blisse thee shall him moue. Jacob.

O sweete and dere mother, this deuise is but vaine,

For Esau is rough, and I am smothe certaine.

And so when I shal to my father bring this meate,  
Perchance he will seele me, before that he will eate.

Old men be mistrustfull : he shall the matter take,

That I went about my father a sole to make.

Whether by such a prauent the matter will be worse :

And I in steed of blessing shal purchase me his curse.

On me be thy curse my sonne, let it light on me.

Rebecca.

E. J.

Only

## The Historie of

Only set thou the kiddes hither, as I bid thee.  
Do thou thy true deuoir, and let God worke therein.

Jacob.

Upon your worde mother, I will the thing begin,  
Send me litle Mido to helpe me beare a kiddle.

Rebecca.

He shall come by and by, for so I shall him bidde.  
Now lord, & if thou please, that this thing shall take place,  
Further this our enterprise, helping with thy grace.

### Actus quarti, scæna secunda.

Mido.

**A**ke ye here maister Jacob? I came you to looke:  
And here dame Rebecca hath sent you your shep-crooke  
And hath commaunded me to wayte on you this day,  
But wherfore or why, she woulde nothing to me say.

Jacob.

Come on then, follow me Mido a litle wayes.

Mido.

Whether ye shall leade me, I am at all assayes.

Jacob.

And art thou able to beare a kiddle on thy backe?

Mido,

I am able (I trowe) to beare a quarter sacke.

How say you to this corps? is it not fat and round?

How say ye to these legges? come they not to the ground?

And be not here armes able your matter to speede?

Be not here likely shoulders to do such a dede?

Wherfore come maister Jacob, if this your dout be,

For bringing home of kiddes, lay the biggest on me,

So that if we make a feast, I may haue some parte.

Jacob.

Yes that shalt thou Mido, right worthy thou art.

### Actus quarti, scæna tertia.

Rebecca.

Abra.

Rebecca.

**I**Come to see if Jacob be gone a fiede yet,  
A litle slacking may all our purpose let.

But now that he is gone, he will be here at once.

Wherfore I will call my maide Abra for the nonce,

That all thing within may be in a redinesse.

Abra, where be ye Abra?

Abra.

Here within maistrisse.

Rebecca.

Come forth: when? Abra, what Abra I say.

Anone







## *Jacob and Esau.*

Anone.

Must I call so oft? why come ye not by and by?

I was washing my bestell forsooth maistresse I.

And in very dæde, looke that all your bestell be cleane.

There is not one soule peece in all our tent I wene,

Then make a great fyre, and make redy your pot

And see there be plenty of water colde and hotte.

And see the spitte be scoured as cleane as any pearle.

If this be not quickly done cal me noughtie gyle.

Pay, soft, whither away? I haue not yet all done.

I thought ye would haue had me as quicke to be gone,

As when ye call Abza, ye would haue me to come.

Than see ye haue made redy cloanes, mace, and sinamom

Peper and saffron, then set hearbes for the potte,

We will haue the best that by me can be got.

And let no foule corner be about all the tent.

If ye find any fault, hardly let me be shent.

Is there any thing else but that I may go now?

Nought, but that when I come I finde no fault in you.

No I warrant you, I will not let my matters slepe.

Any god wenche will at hir dames bidding take kepe.

Now God of Abraham, as I trust in thy grace,

Sende Jacob the blissing in Esau his place.

As thou hast ordeyned right so must all thing be.

Performe thine owne wordes lord which thou spakest to me.

Now will I go in to see that mine olde husband,

May of my secrete working nothing vnderstand.

Or in case he smell what we haue thus farre begonne,

He may thinke it all for Esau to be done.

### *Actus quarti, scæna quarta.*

Abra the mayde,      Deborra, the nurse,

**H**E that were now within, should find all thing I wene. Abza.

As trimme as a trêcher, as tricke, as swete, as cleane.

And seeing that my dame prepareth suche a feast,

I will not I trow be found such a guttish beast,

C.ij.

That

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

Abza.

Rebecca.

# The Historie of

Songes

That there shall any filthe about our tent be kepte,  
But that both within and without it shall bee swepte.

## The second song.

It hath bene a proverbe before I was borne,  
Yong doth it pricke that wyll be a thorne.

Who will be euill, or who will be good,  
Who geuen to truth or who to falshood,  
Eche bodies youth sheweth a great likelihood.

Then let her  
sweepe with  
a brome, and  
while she doth  
it, sing this  
song, and when  
she hath song,  
let her say thus

For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.  
Who so in youth will no goodnesse embrace,  
But folow pleasure, and not vertues trace,  
Great meruaile it is if such come to grace.

For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.  
Suche as in youth will refuse to be taught,

Or will be slacke to worke as he ought,  
When they come to age, their prooffe will be nought.  
For yong doth it pricke that will be a thorne.

If a childe haue bene ginen to any vice,  
Except he be guided by such as be wyse,  
He will therof all his lyfe haue a spise:  
For yong doth it pricke that will be thorne.

It hath bene a proverbe. &c.

Abza.

Now haue I done, and as it should be for the nonce,  
My sweeping and my song are ended both at once.  
Now but for setting mine herbes I might go play.  
Debozra nurse Debozra, a worde I you pray.

Debozra.

Abza.

What is the matter: who calleth me Debozra:  
Forsooth gentle nurse euen I little Abza,  
I pray you swete Debozra take in this same brome,  
And loke well to all thing till I returne home:  
I must to the gardine as fast as I can trotte,  
As I was commaunded to set hearbes for the pottle.  
But in the meane time, I pray you nurse loke about  
And see well to the syze that it go not out,  
I will aumble so fast, that I will sone be there,  
And here again I trow, ere an hourse like his eare.

There







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## *Jacob and Esau.*

There is not a prettier gyffe within this mile,  
Than this Abza will be within this litle while.  
As true as any stele: ye may trust her with gold.  
Though it were a bushell, and not a peny tolde.  
As quicke about her worke that must be quickly spead  
As any wenche in twenty mile about her head.  
As fine a p[er]ce it is as I knowe but a felw,  
Yet perchaunce her husb[an]de of her maye haue a shewe.  
Cat after kinde (saith the p[ro]uerbe) swete milke wil lap,  
If the mother be a shewe, the daughter can not scape.  
Once our marke she hath, I maruell if she slippe:  
For hir nose is growng aboue hir ouer lippe.  
But it is time that I into the tent be gone.  
Lest she come and chide me, she will come now anons.

Debozra.

### *Actus quarti, scæna quinta.*

*Abra.*

**H**ow say ye: haue not I dispatched me quickly?  
I draw soz that wenche that doth not somtobat likely,  
I haue brought here god herbes, & of them plenty  
To make both bzoth and farcing, and that full deinty,  
I trust to make such bzoth, that when all things are in,  
God almighty selfe may wet his finger therein.  
Here is time and percelie, spinache, and rosemary.  
Endiue, suckozie, lacteur, violette, clary,  
Liuer wort, marigolde, sozell, hartes tong, and sage:  
Penitpal, purselane, buglosse and bozage,  
With many very god herbes mo than I do name.  
But to tary here thus long, I am muche to blame.  
For if Jacob should come, I not in readinesse:  
I must of couenaunt be shent of our maistrisse.  
And I would not soz twenty p[ou]nde I tell ye,  
That any point of default should be found in me.

Abza.

### *Actus quarti, scæna sexta.*

*Rebecca. Mido. Jacob.*

*Elij.*

*I come*



## The Historie of

Rebecca.

**I** Come to see if Jacob do not returne yet,  
I can not maruell enough what should be his let,  
And greatly wonder he is away thus long.  
I feare much of his absence, lest som thing be wrong.  
As well as hearte can wishe all thing is ready here.  
And now to me eche moment semeth a whole yere.  
But hearke, me thinketh I here a pong kidde bleé  
It is so in déede, I see Jacob, well is mé.

Mido.

Hearke maister Jacob, hearde ye euer kidde blea so?  
I wene she knoweth afoze hande wherto she shall go.

Jacob.

I would not my father Isaac should heare :

Mido.

Pay, she will scarcely be stil, when she is dead, I do feare.

Jacob.

But loe I see my mother stande before the tent.

Rebecca.

O Lord, me thinketh long sonne Jacob since thou went

Jacob.

And me thinketh mother, we haue hyed vs well :

Mido.

I haue made many sée to solotwe, I can tell.

Rebecca.

Gene me thy kidde my sonne, and nowe leat me alone,  
Bring thou in thine Mido, and see thou bee a stone.

Mido.

A stone? howe shoulde that be maistresse? I am a lad:  
And a boy aloue, as good as ere ye had:

And nowe in bringyng home this kyd I haue I trow,  
Tried my selfe a man, and a preatic fellow,

Rebecca.

I ment thou shouldest nothing saye.

Mido.

One warning is enough, ye bad vs so last day.

Rebecca.

Well let me go in, and venison hereof make:

Jacob.

And hearest thou Mido? see that god hede thou take,  
In any wise to come in my fathers sight.

Mido.

Why he seeth no better at none than at midnight.  
Is he not blinde long since, and doth his eyes lacke?  
Therefore go in dame, I beare an heauy packe.

Rebecca.

I leaue you here Jacob, and hartely you pray,  
That when néede shall require, you be not farre away.

Jacob.

I shall be ready mother, when so ere you call.

Actus quarti, scæna septima.

Jacob.

Mido.

D holw







## *Jacob and Esau.*

**O** How happy is that same daughter or that sonne,  
Whome the parentes loue with hartly affection.

Jacob.

And among all others howe fortunate am I,  
Whome my mother Rebecca tendreth so greatly?  
If it lay in her to do any good ye see,  
She would do her earnest denoie to pzeferre me.  
But as for this matter which she doth now intende,  
Without thy aide O Lorde, howe should it come to ende.  
Neuerthelesse forasmuche as my said mother,  
Worketh vpon thy worde O Lorde, and none other,  
It shall become me to shewe mine obedience,  
And to thy promise O Lorde, to giue due credence.  
For what is so possible to mans iudgement,  
Which thou canst not with a becke performe incontinent?  
Therefore thy will O Lord, be done for euermoze.

O Jacob, I was neuer so ascarde afore.

Esau.

Why what newe thing is chaunced Esau, I pray thee?

Jacob.

O Isaac your father, hearde your yong kiddle blea.

Esau.

He asked what it was, and I said, a kiddle.

Who brought it from the folde, I said you did.

For what purpose: forsooth saye I,

There is some matter that Jacob would remedy:

And where hast thou ben so long litle Esau, quod he,

That all this whole houre thou wert not once with me?

Forsooth (quod I) when I went from you last of all,

You bade me be no moze but be ready at your call.

But of the kiddes bleayng he did speake no moze.

Jacob.

No, but and if he had called me afore,

Esau.

I must haue told him al, or els I must haue made a lye,

Which woulde not haue bene a good hopes part truely.

But I will to him, and no longer here remaine,

Lest he should happen to call for Esau againe.

## *Actus quarti, scæna octaua.*

Jacob.

Rebecca.

Deborra.

I were best also to get me into the tent,

Jacob.

Exit

## The Historie of

- That if my mother néede me, I may be present.  
 But I sé hir come forth, and nurse Debozra also,  
 And bring geare with them what so ere it shall do.
- Rebecca. Where is my sonne Jacob? I do him now espie.  
 Come apace Debozra, I pray thee let vs hye,  
 That a l thing were dispatched somewhat to my minde.
- Debozra. It is happy that Jacob ready here ye finde.
- Jacob. Mother, what haue ye brought? & what things are those?
- Rebecca. Geare that I haue prepared to serue our purpose,  
 And bicause that Esau is so rough with beare:  
 I haue brought sleues of kid next to thy skin to weare.  
 They be made glouelike, and for eche finger a stall:  
 So that thy fathers feeling sone beguile they shall.  
 Then haue I brought a coller of rough be kiddes beare,  
 Fast vnto the skinne round about thy necke to weare.  
 Come, let me do it on, and if Isaac féle,  
 He shall therewith be beguiled wondrous wele.
- Here she doth  
 the sleues vpon  
 Jacobs armes.
- Jacob. And what shall this geare do, that ye haue brought?
- Rebecca. It shall serue anon I warraunt you, take no thought.  
 Now, thoroughly to rauishe thy father Isaac,  
 Thou shalt here incontinent put vpon thy backe,  
 Esau his best apparell, whose fragraunt flauour,  
 Shall coniure Isaac to beare thee his sauour.
- Debozra. Mary sir now is maister Jacob trimme in déede,  
 That is all trikke and gallaunt to God me spéede,  
 Now I sé apparell setteth out a man.  
 Doth it become Esau for nay besetwe me then.
- Rebecca. He may now go in nurse, and leaue looking on him.
- Debozra. I go, mary sir Jacob is now gay and trim.
- Jacob. No forsooth mother, this raiment liketh not me.  
 I could with mine owne geare better contented be.  
 And but for satysfying of your minde and will,  
 I would not weare it, to haue it for mine owne still.  
 I loue not to weare an other birdes feathers.  
 Mine owne poze homely geare will serue for all wethers.
- Rebecca. Well content thy selfe, and solow my minde this day.
- Now







## Jacob and Esau.

Now the meate by this time is ready I dare say.  
 Before that with to much enough it be all spilt,  
 Take thy time, and assaile thy father when thou wilt.

Yea, but haue ye prouided mother I you pray,  
 That no body within may your counsaile betwray?

I warrant the matter all safe from uttering,  
 I haue stopped all monthes for once muttering.  
 Therfore whyle the tyme serueth, I the warne,  
 To slacke when all thinges are ready may do harme.

Goe before, & I follow: but my chekes will blushe red,  
 To be sene among our folke thus apparailled.

Jacob.

Rebecca.

Jacob.

### Actus quarti, scæna nona.

Isaac. Mido. Jacob.

Come Mido, for without thee I can nothing do.  
 What is it sye, that ye would haue my helpe vnto?

Isaac.

Nothing but to sitte abroad, and take th' open aire.

Isaac.

That shalbe well done, the weather is very faire,

Mido.

Praised be the God of my father Abraham.

Isaac.

Who sendeth all thing needfull for the vse of man,

And most tenderly prouideth be for me Isaac,

Better than I can feele or perceiue what I lacke.

Where is my most dere father? as I would haue it,

Jacob.

Taking the open ayre, here I see him sitte.

O my most dere father Isaac, well thou be.

Here I am my swete sonne, and who art thou tell me?

Isaac.

Dere father, I am Esau thine eldest sonne,

Jacob.

According as thou baddest me, so haue I done.

Come in dere father, and eate of my benison,

That thy soule may gene vnto me thy benison.

But how hast thou sped so soone? let me vnderstande.

Isaac.

The Lorde thy God at the first brought it to my hande.

Jacob.

And art thou Esau mine elder sonne in deede?

Isaac.

To aske that question father, what dooth it neede?

Jacob.

Come nere that I may seele whether thou be or not,

Isaac.

For Esau is rough of heare as any goate.

F. J.

Let

## The Historie of

Let me feele thy hande, right Esau by the beare,  
And yet the voice of Jacob solowneth in mine eare.  
God blesse thee my sonne, and so will I do anone,  
As soone as I haue tasted of thy venison.  
Come on, leade me in, I will eate a pittance.  
A litle thing God twotte to me is suffisance,  
I may now go play, Jacob leadeth Isaac.  
But I neuer saw such a pretie knacke,  
How Jacob beguiled his father, how slightly.  
Now I see it true the blinde eate many a flye.  
I quaked once for feare lest Jacob would be caught,  
But as hadde was, he had his lesson well taught.  
But what will Esau say, when he cometh home?  
Chose him, but for me to go in it is wisdom.

Ido.

### Actus quarti, scæna decima.

Rebecca. Abra.

Rebecca.

Now I beseeche the Lorde prosper Jacob my sonne,  
In our hardy enterprize which we haue begonne.  
Isaac is eating such meate as he doth loue,  
Which thing to blesse Jacob I doubt not will him moue:  
If he obeyne the blessing as I trust he shall,  
Then shall my soule geue to God laude perpetuall.  
But I will in to harken how the thing doth frame.

Ido.

Rebecca.

Abra.

Rebecca.

Come in dame Rebecca,  
Who is it that doth me name?  
My maister Isaac is conuning south streight way.  
He shall not finde me here in no wise if I may.

### Actus quarti, scæna vndecima.

Isaac. Jacob.

Isaac.

Set me down on the bench where thou didst me first find;  
Now forsooth I haue eate meate euen to my minde.  
It hath refreshed my soule wonderfully well.  
For neuer dranke I better wine that I can tell.  
If it were to your liking I am very glad.

Jacob.







## Jacob and Esau.

It was the best meat and wine that euer I had.  
 Come kysse me sonne Esau with the kysse of peace,  
 That my lone towardes thee may the more increace.  
 I blesse thee here for euer my sonne in this place,  
 The Lord my God of might endue thee with his grace.  
 What sweete flauour my sonnes raiment doth yelde,  
 Euen the fragrant smell that commeth from a feld.  
 Which the Lord hath blessed, and the same lord blesse thee :  
 With the dewe of heauen, the Lord thy ground encrease  
 That the fatnesse of the earth may neuer cease.  
 The Lord send thee abundaunce of corne and wine,  
 And prosper continually all thing that is thine.  
 The Lord make great people seruants vnto thee :  
 And nations to do homage and fealty.  
 And here to succede my place, mine heyre I thee make,  
 Of all things that I haue, possession to take.  
 Lord and ruler be thou ouer thy brethren all,  
 And bolue to thee as head, thy mothers children shall.  
 Cursed be that man that shall thee curse or misday :  
 And who that blesseth thee, blessed be he for aye.  
 Thus here haue I made my last will and testament,  
 Which the Lord God ratifie neuer to repent.  
 Serue the Lord our God, and then wel shalt thou speede,  
 And he shall kepe promise to multiply thy seed.  
 My day draweth on, for olde and feeble I am.  
 When I dye, put me to my father Abraham.  
 Now kisse me once again my sonne, and then depart,  
 And enter vpon all, wherof now Lord thou art.  
 The Lord God reward your fatherly tendernesse.  
 Which ye haue here shewed me of your mere godnesse.  
 Go in peace my dere sonne, leaving me here alone :  
 And send little Pido to leade me in anone. Exeat Jacob.  
 Lord God when thou shalt see time as thou thinkest best,  
 Dissolue this feeble carnesse, and take me to thy rest.  
 Now do ye maister Isaac : I am here now.  
 For my maister Jacob did bid me come to you.

Jacob kisseth  
 Isaac : and the  
 kneleth downe  
 to haue his  
 blessing.

Jacob.

Isaac.

Pido.

F.ij.

Ray



## *The Historie of*

*Isac.  
Qudo.  
Isaac.*

Pay hope, it was not Jacob, I dare well say so.  
Forsooth it was Jacob, if my name be Qido.  
If that be a true tale, some body is come slacke,  
But lozd that I haue done, I will not now call backe.  
But yet I will go se if I be deceined:  
For in dede me thought Jacobs boyce I perceined.

### *Actus quarti, scæna duodecima.*

*Rebecca.*

*Rebecca.  
Then she spea  
keth kneeling,  
and holding  
vp her handes.*

O Lozde, the God of Isaac and Abraham,  
I render thanks to thee though a sinfull woman,  
Because of thy worde and promise true arte thou,  
In sending Jacob the blessing of Esau.  
And so; thus regarding a sinner as I am,  
I esteemes thanke thee O Lozde God of Abraham,  
Thy mercy and wysedome shall I sing euermore:  
And magnifie thy name, for Gods there is no more.  
But I will to my husbände Isaac, and se,  
That so; this matter he take no greefe at me.

### *Actus quinti, scæna prima.*

*Ragau.*

*Ragau brin-  
geth venison at  
his backe.*

N Ay, now at last we haue well sped I warrant you:  
God lucke is not euermore against Esau.  
He coursed and coursed again with his dogges here:  
But they could at no time take either hare or dere.  
At last he killed this with his bowe as God wold.  
And to say that it is fatte venison be bolde.  
But dressed it must be at once in all the haste,  
That olde father Isaac may haue his repast.  
Then without delay Esau shall blessed be,  
Then saith cock on houpe, al is ours, then who but he?  
But I must in that it may be dressed in time likely,  
And I trow ye shall see it made ready quickly.

### *Actus quinti, scæna secunda.*

*Qido.*







## *Jacob and Esau.*

Mido.

**N**ay now olde maister Isaac (I warrant you)  
Hath blessed Jacob in the place of Esau.

Mido.

At home here with vs it is iudged no small change  
But a case wonderfull, and also very strange.  
The yonger brother is made elder, and againe,  
The elder must now serue the yonger as his swayne.  
And from henceforth we must all make curtesie and bow,  
Vnto maister Jacob, and not to Esau now :  
And Esau him selfe must vnder Jacob bee,  
At his commaundement euen as well as we.  
But I care not I warrant you : for our householde  
Loue Jacob better than Esau twenty folde.  
Done loueth Esau but for his fathers sake :  
But all good folkes are glad Jacobs parte to take.  
And now by Esau no man wyll sette a pinne,  
But ponder he commeth now, I will gette me in.

### *Actus quinti, scæna tertia.*

Esau.

**I**trow I haue now wonne my spurs for euer,  
For once better benison killed I neuer.

Esau.

And though it wer somewhat longer I coulde it take,  
Yet the godnesse therof doth some recompence make.  
My father Isaac shall therof haue suche meate,  
As in all his life he hath not the better eate.  
Wherbypon I doubt not, after tender kysing,  
To be streight endowd with his godly byssing.  
As his full and true heire in his place to succede,  
And t'enioye the promise that God made to his seide,  
And when I am once in my place of succession,  
And haue all maner thinges in full possession :  
I shall wyng all loutes and make them stoupe (I trowe)  
I shall make the slaues couche as lowe as dog to bow.  
I shall ruffle among them of an other sort,  
Than Isaac hath done, and with an other post.

F.lij.

But

## *The Historie of*

But nowe will I go see what hast within they make  
That part of my hunting my olde father may take.

### *Actus quarti, scæna quarta.*

Isaac. Mido. Elau.

Isaac.

Mido.

Isaac.

Mido.

Isaac.

**M**ido, come Mido, where art thou little Mido?  
Here redy maister Isaac, what shall I do?

Come leade me to mine old place, that I may sit doune

That can I as well as any boy in this towne.

O Lorde my God, how deepe and vnsercheable  
Are all thy iudgements, and how immutable?  
Of thy iustice, whom it pleaseth thee, thou doest reiect,  
Of thy mercy, whome pleaseth thee, thou doest electe.  
In my two sonnes O Lorde, thou hast wrought thy will,  
And as thy pleasure hath wrought, so shall it stand still.  
Hence thou hast set Jacob in Elau his place:  
I committe him to the gouernance of thy grace.

Elau.

Now where is Isaac that he may come and eate?

Lo where he is sitting abroade vpon his seate.

Deare father Isaac, the Lorde thy God thee saue.

Isaac.

Elau.

Who art thou my son? & what thing woldest thou haue?

I am your eldest sonne Elau by my name,

Helpe come home from hunting, where I had ioyly game,  
I haue made meate therof for your owne appetite,  
Deate for your owne tooth, wherein ye will much delite.  
Come eate your part, dere father, that when ye haue don,  
Your soule may blesse me as your heire and eldest son.

Isaac.

Ah Elau, Elau, thou comest so late,  
An other to thy blessing was predestinate,  
And cleane gone it is from thee Elau.

Elau.

Alas,  
Then am I the vnhappiest that euer was,  
I would the saluage beastes had my body tozue.

Isaac.

Elau.

Isaac.

The blessing that thou sholdest haue had, an other hath  
Alas, what wretched villaine hath done me such scath?  
Thy brother Jacob came to me by subtiltie,

And







## *Jacob and Esau.*

And brought me venison, and so prevented thee.  
I ate with him ere thou camst, and with my good will,  
Blessed him I haue, and blessed he shall be still.

Oh Jacob, Jacob, well may he be called so :

Esau.

For he hath vndermined me times two.

For first mine heritage he toke away me fro,

And see, now hath he away my blessing also.

Oh father, father, though Jacob hath done this thing :

Yet let me Esau also haue thy blessing.

Shall all my good huntings for thee be in vaine ?

That is done and past, can not be called againe.

Isaac.

Wine at must now stand in force of necessitie.

And hast thou neuer a blessing then left for me ?

Esau.

Behold, I haue made thy brother Jacob thy Lord.

Isaac.

A most poinant sword vnto my heart is that word.

Esau.

All his mothers children his seruantes haue I made.

Isaac.

That word is to me sharper than a rasers blade.

Esau.

I haue also stablished him with wine and cozne.

Isaac.

Who be the day and houre that euer I was bozne.

Esau.

What am I able to do for thee my sonne ?

Isaac.

Oh Jacob, Jacob, that thou hast me thus vndone.

Esau.

Oh vnhappy happe : oh misfortune, well away,

That euer I should liue to see this wofull day.

But hast thou one blessing and no mo my father ?

Let me also haue some blessing god swete father.

Well, nature pricketh me some remorse on thee to haue. Isaac.

Behold, thy dwelling place the earthes fatnesse shall haue,

And the dew of heauen whiche doune from aboue shall fall :

And with dint of sword thy liuing get thou shall.

And to thy brother Jacob thou shalt be seruant.

Oh, to my yonger brother must I be seruant ?

Esau.

Oh, that euer a man should be so oppressed.

Thine owne fault it is that thou art dispossessed.

Isaac.

Father, chaunge that piece of thy sentence & iudgement.

Esau.

Things done can not be vndone, therefore be content, Isaac.

Let me be in quiet, and trouble me no more.

Come

## *The Historie of*

*Esau.*

Come Mido, in goddes name leade me in at the doze.

Oh woulde not this chafe a man, and fret his guts out?  
To liue as an vnderling vnder such a loute?  
Ah hypocrite, ah hedgecræper, ah sembling wretche:  
I will be euen with thee for this subtill fetch.  
O God of Abraham, what reason is herein,  
That to slea ones enemy it should be made sinne?  
Were not one as good his part of heauen forgoe,  
As not to be reuenged on his deadly foe?  
God was angry with Cain for killing Abell:  
His might I kill Jacob meruellously well.  
I may fortune one day him to dispatche and ride:  
The Lord will not see all things, some thing may be hid.  
But as for these misers within my fathers tent,  
Which to the supplanting of me put their consent,  
Not one, but I shall coyle them till they stinke for pain,  
And then for their stinking, coyle them of freshe again.  
I will take no daies, but while the matter is hotte,  
Not one of them shall scape but they shall to the potte.

### *Actus quinti, scæna quinta.*

*Ragau.*

Where are we now become? marie sy? here is arape,  
With Esau my maister this is a blacke dape.  
I told you, Esau one day woulde shite a ragge,  
Haue not we well hunted, of blessing to come lagge?  
Nay I thought euer it would come to suche a passe,  
Since he solde his heritage like a very asse.  
But in faith some of them I dare leopord a grote,  
If he may reache them, will haue on the peltote.

### *Actus quinti, scæna sexta.*

*Esau. Ragau. Abra. Mido.*

*Esau.*

*Ragau.*

*Esau.*

Come out whores & theues, come out, come out I say.  
I told you, did I not? that there would be a fray.  
Come out litle whoreson ape, come out of thy denne.

*Take*







*Jacob and Esau.*

Take my lyfe for a peny, whether shall I renne ?	Dido.
Come out thou litle sende, come out thou skittish Gill.	Eſau.
Out alas, alas, Eſau will vs all kill.	Abza.
And come out thou mother Bab, out olde rotten witche,	Eſau.
As white as midnightes arſehole, or birgin pitche.	
Where be ye ? come together in a claſſer.	
In faith and theſe thre wil make a noble muſſer.	Ragau.
Ere ye eſcape my fingers, ye ſhall all be tought.	Eſau.
For theſe be they which haue all this againſt me wrought.	
I wrought not a ſtroke this day but led Iſaac.	Dido.
If I wrought one ſtroke to day, lay me on the ſacke.	
Hence then, get thee in, and do againſt me no moze.	Eſau.
I care as muche for you now, as I did befoze.	Dido.
What ſayeſt thou litle theſe ? if I may thee catche,	Eſau.
Ye ſhall runne apace then I wene, ſo God me ſnatche.	Dido.
Now to go Dido, or thou art caught in a trippe,	Ragau.
Pay for his ſake, Abza, ye ſhall drinke of the whippe.	Eſau.
Pay for Gods loue good ſweete maiſter Eſau,	Abza.
Hurt not me for Dido : ſpeake for me Ragau.	
Sir ſpare litle Abza, ſhe hath done none euill.	Ragau.
A litle fiende it is, and will be a right deuill,	Eſau.
And ſhe is one of them that loue not me a deale.	
If ye let me go, I will loue you very wel.	Abza.
And neuer any moze ado againſt me make ?	Eſau.
Ragau ſhal be ſurety.	Abza.
Sir I vndertake.	Ragau.
Then hence out of my ſight at once, and get thee in.	Eſau.
Adew, I ſet not a ſtrawe by you nor a pinne.	Abza.
What ſayeſt thou thou Tib : once ye ſhal haue a rappe.	Eſau.
The beſt ende of ſuretiſhip is to get a clappe,	Ragau.
Now come on thou olde beg, what ſhal I ſay to thee ?	Eſau.
Say what ye liſt, ſo ye do not touche me.	Debo;ra.
Yes, and make powder of thee, for I dare ſay, thou,	Eſau.
Halt bene the cauſe of all this feaſt to Eſau.	
So it was Iacobs feaſt that I did helpe to dreſſe.	Debo;ra.

Ch.

Pay

## The Historie of

**Eſau.** Nay I thought ſuch a witche would do ſuch buſſneſſe.  
**Rebecca.** But by my truth if I ſhould dye incontinent,  
 I knew not of the purpoſe wherſoze it was ment.  
**Eſau.** But wilt thou tell me truth if I do forgiue thee?  
**Deborra.** Yea if I can maiſter Eſau, beleue me.  
**Eſau.** Is it true that when I and my brother were firſt borne,  
 And I by Gods ordinaunce came forth him beſore,  
 Iacob came forthwith, holding me faſt by the heele?  
**Deborra.** It is true, I was there, and ſaw it very wele.  
**Eſau.** Is it true? well Iacob I pray God I be dead,  
 But for my heles ſake, I will haue thee by the head.  
 What diuel was in me, that I had not the grace  
 With kicking backe my heele to marre his miſerious face?  
 But my father Iſaac will not long liue now,  
 If he were gone, Iacob I would ſome mate with you.  
 For my ſoule hateth Iacob euen to the death,  
 And I will nere but hate him while I ſhall haue breath.  
 I may well diſſemble vntill I ſee a day:  
 But truſt me Iacob, I will pay thee when I may.  
 But if euer I heare that thou ſpeake worde of this,  
 I ſhall cut out thy tongue, I will not miſſe.  
 But come on Ragan with me, ſo mote I thine,  
 I will get a good ſworde, for therby muſt I liue.  
**Ragan.** Line quod you? we are like to liue God knoweth how.  
**Eſau.** What ye ſaucie merchaunt, are ye a prater now?

### Actus quinti, ſcæna ſeptima.

**Deborra. Rebecca.**

**Deborra.** Am glad that Eſau is now gone certes.  
 For an euill diſpoſed man he is doubtleſſe.  
 Yet am I no gladder of his departure hence,  
 Than I am that Rebecca is come in preſence.  
**Rebecca.** Deborra, what doſt thou tarpyng here ſo long?  
 I came full ill aſeard leaſt ſome thing had ben wrong  
 For Iſido and Abſa tolde me of Eſau.

In deſo







## *Iacob and Esau.*

In dede here he was, and departed hence but now:  
And one thing I tell you dame, let Iacob beware,  
For Esau to mischiefe Iacob dothe prepare,  
Call Iacob hyther, that I may shew him my minde.  
Sende him hyther quickly, and tary ye behinde.  
That he geue place atohyle, it is expedient,  
And howe he may be sure, I wyll the way inuent.

Debozra.

Rebecca.

### *Actus quinti, scæna octaua.*

Iacob.

Rebecca.

**M**other Rebecca, did ye sende for me hyther?  
Yea and the cause is this, thou must go somwhither,  
To hyde thee from thy brother Esau a space.

Iacob.

Rebecca.

In dede to mens malice we must sometime geue place.  
He lieth in alwayte, to slea thee if he can.

Iacob.

Rebecca.

Thou shalt therfore by my rede sle hence to Haran,  
And lye with my brother Laban a man aged,  
Tyll Esaus wraoth be somewhat allwaged.  
When all thinges are forgotten, and his fury pass,  
I shall sende for thee again in all goodly haste.

Yea, but howe wyll my father herewith be content?

Iacob.

Thou shalt see me wynne hym thereto incontinent.

Rebecca.

And here he commeth happily, Iacob heare me,  
Make a signe to Mido, that he do not name thee,  
Then gette thee in priuely tyl I do thee call.

As ye commaunde me mother Rebecca, I shall.

Iacob.

### *Actus quinti, scæna nona.*

Isaac. Mido. Rebecca. Iacob.

**W**here be ye good wyfe?

Isaac.

My dame Rebecca is here.

Mido.

I am glad swete husband that I see you appere,  
For I haue a worde or two vnto you to say.

Rebecca.

Whatsoeuer it be, tell it me I pray.

Isaac.

Sir ye know, that now our life daies are but short

Rebecca.

G.ij. And

## The Historie of

And we had neuer so great néede of comfort,  
Now Esau his wiues being Bethites both,  
We know to please vs are much vntwilling and loth.  
That if Jacob eke would take any Bethite to wife,  
Small ioy should we both haue or comforte of our life.

**Isaac.** Wife ye speake this well, and I will prouide therfore,

Call Jacob quickly, that he appeare me before.

**Mido.** I can runne apace for him if ye bidde me go.

**Rebecca.** Go hie thê at once then like a good sonne Mido.

**Isaac.** O Lord saue thou my sonne from miscarrying.

**Mido.** Come maister Jacob, ye must make no tarrying,

For I it is that shall be shent if you be slacke,

Here is your sonne Jacob now, maister Isaac.

**Isaa**

Sonne Jacob, make thê ready as fast thou can,

And in all hast possible get thê vnto Laban.

He is thine owne vncle, and a right godly man,

Marry of his daughters, and not of Canan.

In Mesopotamia shalt thou leade thy life.

The lord prosper thê there, without debate or strife.

And the God of Abraham prosper thê in peace,

He multiply thy sêde, and make it to encrease,

Nowe kisse me deare sonne Jacob, and so go thy way.

**Rebecca.** Kisse me also swête sonne, and hence without delay.

**Jacob.** Now most tender parents, as wel with heart and word,

I bid you well to fare, and leaue you to the Lord.

**Mido.** Pay maister Jacob, let me haue an hande also.

**Jacob.** Cuen with all my heart farewell litle Mido.

**Isaac.** Now will I departe hence into the tent againe,

**Rebecca.** As pleaseth God and you, but I will here remaine.

### Actus quinti, scæna decima.

Esau. Ragau. Rebecca. Isaac. Mido.

**A**dd is he gone in dæde to mine vncle Laban,  
In Mesopotamia at the towne of Haran?  
And is Jacob gone to the house of Bethuel?

The







## *Jacob and Esau.*

The whirlewynd with him, and syngyng sende of hel.

But I shall m:te with him yet one daye well enough.

And who is this: my mother, whom I see here now?

She stode here al this while sir, did ye not her see?

Ragau.

Didst thou see her stand here, & wouldest not warne me?

Esau.

Sonne Esau, afore God thou art much to blame,

Rebecca.

And to do as I heare of thee, is a soule shame.

Wother what is it ye heard of me of late?

Esau.

That thou doest thy brother Jacob deadly hate.

Rebecca.

Hate Jacob? I hate him and will do till I dye.

Esau.

For he hath done me both great wrong and villanny.

And that shal he well know if the Lord geue me lyfe.

I ye upon thee to speake so like a letwde captife.

Rebecca.

My maister Esau is of nature much hote,

Ragau.

But he will be better than he saith, feare not.

My birthright to sell did he not make me consent?

Esau.

But the same to do were not thy selfe content?

Rebecca.

There is no man to blame for it but thine owne selfe.

Pea mother, see that ye holde with that mopishe else.

Esau.

It is your deinty dearlyng, your pryncokore, your golpoll,

He can neuer be praised enough of your soule,

He must euer be extolled aboue the Moone,

It is neuer amisse that he hath said or done.

I would he were rocked or dandled in your lappe:

O! I would with this sauchon I might geue him pap.

I meruail why ye should so loue him, and me not?

We groned as well for the one as thother I wotfe.

But Jacob must be aduanced in any wyse:

But I shall one day handle him of the new guise.

Both on thy fathers blessing and mine I charge thee,

Rebecca.

That thy soule entend neuer such iniquitie,

Beware by the example of Caym I thee rede,

That thou bring not the Lordes curse vpon thy head.

And what should I take all this wrong at Jacobs hande?

Esau.

For geue, and the Lord shall prosper thee on the lande.

Rebecca.

## *The Historie of*

- My sonne Esau heare me, I am thy mother :  
For my sake let passe this grudge against thy brother.
- Ragau. Spz, your mothers request is but reasonable,  
Which so; you to graunt shal be muche commendable.
- Esau. Mother, though it be a great thing that ye require :  
Yet must all malice passe at your desire.  
And for your cause mother, this mine angre shall slake.
- Rebecca. I thanke thee my sonne, that thou dost it for my sake  
Esau. For your sake with Jacob I will be at accorde.  
Rebecca. And shall I call thy father to be as recorde ?  
Esau. As pleaseth you mother, I can be well content.  
Rebecca. Then wyl I go call hym hyther incontinent.  
And where he doth already loue thee very well,  
This wyl make hym to loue thee better a greate deale.
- Ragau. Truly spz, this is of you a right gentill part :  
At least yf it come from the bottome of your harte.
- Esau. It must nowe be thus, but when I shall Jacob synde,  
I shall then do, as God shall put into my minde.
- Rebecca. He hath at my wyorde remitted all his quarele.  
Isaac. Forsooth I loue him the better a great deale.  
And if he be here, I woulde commende his doing.  
All prest here father to tary on your comming.
- Isaac. Sonne Esau, thou haste thy selfe well acquitted.  
Esau. That all quarell to Jacob thou haste remitted.  
It was the Lordes pleasure that it should thus be,  
Against whose ordynance to stande is not for thee :  
But nowe to the entent it may please the Lorde,  
To knitte your hartes one day in a perfect concorde,  
We shall first in a song geue laude vnto his name,  
And than with all gladnesse, within confirme the same.
- Rebecca. As ye thinke best dere husbände I agree thereto.  
Esau. Woe ye may commaunde to what ye will haue me to do :  
And so maye ye do also Ragau my man.
- Isaac. I see none, but praise we the Lorde the best we can.  
Cal sayth all our household that with one accorde,







## Iacob and Esau:

We may all with one voyce syng vnto the Lorde.

Ragau calleth  
al to syng.

This song must be song after the prayer.

**O** Lorde the God of our father Abraham,  
Howe deepe and vnsearcheable are thy iudgementes  
Thy almightifull hande did create and frame,  
Both heauen and earth and all the elementes.

Man of the earth thou haste formed and create,  
Some do thee worship, and some stray awrye,  
Whome pleaseth thee, thou doste choose or repr obate,  
And no fleshe can aske thee wherfore or why?

Of thine owne Will thou didst Abraham electe,  
Promising him seede as sterres of the skie,  
And them as thy chosen people to protecte,  
That they might thy mercies praise and magnifie.

Performe thou O Lorde, thine eternall decree,  
To me and my seede the sonnes of Abraham,  
And whom thou haste chosen thine owne people to bee,  
Guide and defende to the glorie of thy name. FINIS.

Then entreth the Poete, and the rest stand  
still, til he haue done.

**W**hen Adam for breakyng Gods commandement  
Had sentence of death, and all his posteritie:  
Yet the lorde our God who is omnipotent,  
Had in his owne selfe by his eternall decre,  
Appointed to restore man, and to make him free,  
He purposed to saue mankynde by his mercie,  
Whome he once had created vnto his glorie.  
Yet not all fleshe did he then predestinate,  
But onely the adopted children of promise:  
For he forklawe that many would degenerate,  
And wylfully giue cause to be put from that blisse;  
So on Gods behalfe no maner default there is,

The Poete en-  
treth.

But

## The Historie.

But where he chooseth, he sheweth his great mercy:  
And where he refuseth, he doth none injury,  
But thus farre surmounteth mans intellection,  
To attaine oꝝ conceits, and much moze to discusse:  
All must be referred to Gods election,  
And to his secret iudgement, it is mete for vs,  
With Paule the Apostle to confesse and say thus:  
Oh the deepnesse of the riches of Gods wisdomes,  
How vnsearcheable are his wayes to mans reason:  
Our parte therfore is first to beleue Gods worde,  
Not doubtyng but that he wil his elected saue:  
Then to put full trust in the goodnesse of the Lorde,  
That we be of the number which shall mercy haue:  
Thirdly so to liue as we may his promise craue.  
Thus if we do, we shall Abrahams chyldren be:  
And come with Jacob to endlesse felicitie.

All the rest of the actors answer Amen.

Then foloweth the prayer.

Isaac.

Rebecca.

Jacob.

Esau.

**N**ow vnto God let vs pray for all the whole clergy,  
To geue them grace to auiaunce gods honoꝝ and gloꝝy.  
Then for the Quenes matelty let vs pray,  
Vnto God to kepe her in helth and welth night and day,  
And that of his mere mercy and great benignitie,  
He will defend and maintaine hir estate and dignitie,  
That she being greued with any outward hostilitie,  
May against her enemies, alwaye haue victorie.  
God saue the Quenes counsaillours most noble and true,  
And with all goodnesse their noble heartes enioy.  
Lord saue the nobilitie and preserve them all:  
And prosper the Quenes subiects vniuersall.

Amen.

Thus endeth this Comedie or Enterlude  
of Jacob and Esau.









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